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KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ATTACKS FRG POLITICIAN OVER INF

PM211319 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jul 87 First Edition p 3

[Major General Yu. Lebedev article: "Clumsy Hypotheses: What Lies Behind Herr Biehle's Groans"]

[Text] Bundestag Defense Commission Chairman Alfred Biehle recently published an article in the West German newspaper BAYERNKURIER. In this piece of propaganda he leveled a number of charges against the Soviet Union, alleging that it is in breach of the SALT II treaty, and urged "gullible" Western representatives at the Geneva talks "not to succumb to illusion." Biehle warns that, whatever happens, it will not be possible to get rid of the "Soviet military threat." Even if a Soviet-U.S. agreement to eliminate medium-range and operational and tactical missiles in Europe is concluded, the author frightens his readers, "any euphoria about the progress achieved would be impermissible and dangerous."

What is Herr Biehle accusing the Soviet Union of? To answer that question it will be necessary to quote quite a long extract from his article: "During the Geneva talks, which have been going on for several years, the Soviet Union has not sat back idly but has had a careful eye on the future. It has designed [konstruirovat] and partially commissioned new missiles to which the provisions of the treaty under discussion in Geneva do not apply. That could well be the precise reason why the Soviets, judging by all accounts, are now so easily agreeing to give up their SS-20 missiles. Moscow's new missiles -- the SS-24's and SS-25's -- belong to the category of intercontinental strategic weapons with a variable range of roughly 1,000 to 10,000 km. These missiles can consequently be used against both the United States and West Europe."

No one disguises the fact that the SS-24 is the new type of ICBM the Salt II Treaty allows to be built. But why then does Herr Biehle, when maintaining there is a growing Soviet threat to the West, coyly keep silent about the new MX ICBM's that have been built and tested and already commissioned? Presumably he is also aware of the full-scale development of another new type of ICBM in the United States -- the Midgetman -- which, incidentally, in no way comes within the SALT II treaty.

As for the Soviet SS-25 missile, it is not a "new Moscow missile" at all but merely a modernized version of our old RS-12 ICBM. For the information of the Bundestag Defense Commission chairman, such modernization is not prohibited under SALT II and has been carried out in strict accordance with its provisions.

It should be said that Herr Biehle's thoughts are not original. As long as a year ago President Reagan, announcing America's refusal to observe the SALT II treaty in the future, made a clumsy attempt to categorize the SS-25 ICBM's as "new." His purpose was clear. The United States had been working on the creation of a truly new type of ICBM, the Midgetman. The President somehow had to justify America's "right" to have a second new type of ICBM and the U.S. side's breach of the treaty's limit on strategic MIRV's and heavy bombers equipped with cruise missiles with a range in excess of 600 km. It is now clear that in attempting to denigrate the USSR as a negotiating partner the U.S. Administration was preparing the ground for abandoning its commitment to observe agreements in strategic arms limitation.

Biehle's contention that the USSR's possession of SS-24 and SS-25 ICBM's, which are allegedly suitable for use as medium-range missiles, is the reason for the Soviet proposal to eliminate Soviet and U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles on the European Continent is absurd. Anyone with the slightest competence in military-technical matters knows how great the difference is between ICBM's and operational and tactical missiles. They belong to different classes. You do not have to be particularly bright to appreciate that it is, to say the least, foolish to use intercontinental missiles to hit targets at relatively short distances or, putting it figuratively, to use a sledgehammer to crack a nut. Herr Biehle's amateurish contentions do not stand up to criticism.

Can the missiles he is using to frighten the citizenry be quickly and easily converted into medium-range or operational and tactical missiles? Specialists answer this question unequivocally: The conversion of ICBM's into medium-range missiles, still less operational and tactical missiles, is virtually impossible without fundamental design changes, without replacing the missile guidance system, and without building a new warhead and completely different booster motors. It is far easier to build a new, short-range missile then to convert ICBM's into medium-range or operational and tactical missiles.

Since discussion has already turned to the possibilty of converting one class of missile into another it is appropriate to look at a question Biehle deliberately overlooked in his article: the question of the Bundeswehr's Pershing-1A missiles and their U.S. nuclear warheads, which the FRG is clinging to with astonishing tenacity. It transpires that the Bonn Defense Ministry has already prepared plans to replace Pershing-1A complexes with new Pershing-1B complexes, which in terms of equipment are similar to the notorious Pershing-2 medium-range missiles. The differences are minimal. Essentially the Pershing-1B is a one-stage version of the Pershing-2. The operation to convert one missile into another, which has long been worked out in every detail, takes about 48 hours. Bonn is thus trying to secure a loophole for "upgrading" the Bundeswehr with improved operational and tactical missiles capable of being easily and quickly converted into medium-range missiles. At the same time it can please the United States, which wants to keep nuclear weapons in Europe on the false pretext of "meeting its NATO allies' needs."

Biehle's moans are designed to justify U.S. warheads for West German missiles and prevent their elimination. Surely they do not think in the West that we are such simpletons?

With the aims of achieving an accord on operational and tactical missiles the Soviet Union has put forward a number of constructive proposals designed to eliminate the obstacles that have arisen in negotiations and has made major compromises, seeking to expedite a positive solution. These steps are evidence of our country's great sense of responsibility for the fate of the peace and are not a retreat under pressure. When we agree to the "double-zero option" on medium-range and operational and tactical missiles we want to rid the European Continent of nuclear weapons.

The unceasing attempts by Bonn and its transatlantic partners to carry out diversionary maneuvers are bound to cause alarm. It is reasonable to ask: Why have the Western mass media and high-ranking statesmen and politicians suddenly begun talking recently about new "linkages" and warnings, "prescriptions," and "hypotheses"? There is just one aim to this: If a decision on medium-range and operational and tactical missiles cannot be blocked completely, then at least its adoption can be delayed. A. Biehle is clearly among those who oppose an agreement on the elimination of nuclear weapons in Europe. Otherwise he would not have joined in the campaign by the unscrupulous interpreters of events and facts of which, all the indications are, he has a very foggy but extremely biased notion.

All the preconditions now exist for a Soviet-U.S. accord on eliminating medium-range and operational and tactical missiles in Europe. The conclusion of such an accord would not only mean a breakthrough in the crucial sphere of security but also would improve international relations as a whole. This must be promoted in every way, not hindered, and there must be no yielding to the temptation to buttress one's own negative position with the customary anti-Soviet rhetoric.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA REPORTS ON NEW U.S. SDI BOOK

PM211433 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russia 17 Jul 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Baneful Consequences of SDI"]

[Text] Washington, 16 Jul -- Developments in the "Star Wars" program will inevitably lead to the creation of a new generation of antisatellite weapons, which in turn poses the threat of a new and dangerous spiral in the arms race and its extension into space. This warning is given by the author of a book recently published here, "Space and National Security," one Paul Steyrs [last name as published], who is a member of the Brookings Institute.

What is more, the expert notes, the means to destroy satellites could make their appearance long before ABM defense with space-based elements has even been created. The borderline between the defensive and offensive potential of the ABM defense system conceived and being implemented by the Reagan administration is highly notional. The "Star Wars" program provides for the development of technology to destroy targets in space that could be used for aggressive purposes.

Steyrs also draws attention to the fact that the present ban on testing antisatellite weapons on real targets in space cannot prevent the creation of these weapons unless tough restrictions on work on the SDI program are introduced. They real threat of the militarization of space must be counteracted by a ban on the testing and deployment of any combat means in near-earth space. Only this approach can ensure the stabilization of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States and become the basis for peaceful cooperation in space. Otherwise, the author believes, the beginning of another round of the arms race at a qualitatively new level will become reality, which will cause irreparable damage to international stability and security.

The present situation primarily requires the USSR and the United States to strictly abide by the ABM Treaty to which they are signatory.

PYADYSHEV 21 JUL FOREIGN MINISTRY NEWS BRIEFING

Dangers of U.S. Gulf Buildup

LD212005 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Passage in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A briefing on current issues of international politics took place at the USSR Foreign Ministry press center today. Boris Dmitriyevich Pyadyshev, first deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate, who addressed Soviet and foreign journalists, said in particular:

[Pyadyshev] "Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has sent U.S. President Reagan a reply to his message in connection with the Iran-Iraq conflict. The reply says that the growing tension in the Persian Gulf area is causing serious concern in our country. The continuation of the senseless bloodshed between Iran and Iraq is one of the causes of tension in this zone. There is also another cause: The increased tension in the Persian Gulf is a consequence of the buildup of the U.S. military presence.

"With regard to political measures for settling the situation in the Persian Gulf zone, the reply from Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev points out that there are prerequisites, and not bad ones for that matter, for joint actions by our two countries at the Security Council to end the conflict as soon as possible on fair political terms.

"The Soviet leader's message notes that some statements by representatives of the U.S. Administration seem to be evidence of the U.S. side's interest in connection with the Soviet Union's proposals on the Persian Gulf. If this impression is well-founded, we would be ready to discuss that issue with the United States more specifically in any format convenient for the President."

[Announcer] Replying to a question regarding the prospects for solving the Iran-Iraq conflict after the exchange of letters between the leadership of the two countries, Pyadyshev noted:

[Pyadyshev] "The cause would be seriously helped if the United States were to accept the Soviet Government's proposal for the withdrawal from the Persian Gulf zone of all naval vessels of states not belonging to the Persian Gulf zone. We believe that measures of a political nature, with the Security Council being brought in, could also play an important role. At the Security Council there is cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States, as well as with other states which are permanent members of the Security Council. The resolution calling on Iraq and Iran to put an end to military actions -- which was adopted -- was the result of such cooperation. We believe that this is an important decision, an important document, and the implementation of the demands and proposals contained in this resolution would help bring peace to this region."

[Announcer] In reply to questions regarding the massing of a large number of U.S. naval forces in the Persian Gulf zone, Pyadyshev stated:

[Pyadyshev] "This is a serious irritant for the entire situation in this zone. We are against such actions to build up the U.S. naval presence in the Persian Gulf zone. We regard this as inconsistent from a political point of view and as dangerous from the point of view of general situation in this area."

U.S. Greenland Radar 'Unlawful'

LD211918 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Jul 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] At a briefing at the USSR Foreign Ministry press center today, Soviet and foreign journalists were familiarized with the main content of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's reply to a recent message from U.S. President Reagan in connection with the Iran-Iraq conflict. [passage omitted]

The USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that the United States has violated the provisions of the Soviet-U.S. treaty on limiting antimissile defense systems in commissioning a new U.S. phased radar station in Greenland. The Soviet Union, he stressed, has frequently warned about the incompatibility of work being conducted in Greenland with the provisions of the treaty. Nonetheless, the United States has gone ahead with completion of the unlawful deployment of this station. Such actions cannot be regarded other than as an intentional step toward undermining the ABM Treaty.

Soviet Journalists in U.S.

LD211317 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1205 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jul (TASS) -- The difficulties in the work of Soviet journalists in the United States have not been removed, stated Boris Pyadyshev, first deputy of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate. Speaking today at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists, he noted that, in particular, this relates to opportunities for Soviet journalists to be present at White House briefings.

Only 4 of the 30 Soviet correspondents working in Washington have passes to the White House, Pyadyshev noted. If for the other foreign journalists the validity of these passes is for 1 year, for Soviet correspondents, it is only 2 months. So far passes to the White House's press office have not been drawn up for the PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA, Gosteleradio, and TASS correspondents. The embassy sent official letters with requests for their accreditation a long time ago -- 12 to 18 months ago.

The new procedure introduced from 1 June for the access of correspondents from socialist countries to the State Department's premises, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman went on, creates considerable obstacles. The TRUD correspondent in Washington on 13 July tried to arrange accompaniment to a regular briefing at the State Department. At the office of the assistant secretary for public affairs it was explained to him that they do not deal there with the accompaniment of journalists. He was directed to one of the employees of the press office. In turn, that man recommended that he apply to the State Department's USSR Division. There he was told that the press office deals with the accompaniment of Soviet journalists to press briefings. As result of this "football" game the correspondent was unable to go to the briefing.

How do these facts conform to the principles of freedom of the press? The reply to this question must be supplied by the officials in Washington, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman said. These facts are a violation in the United States of the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act on issues dealing with information.

PRAVDA ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL GULF RESOLUTION

PM201825 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Jul 87 First Edition p 5

[G. Vasilyev dispatch: "To End the Conflict. UN Security Council Resolution"]

[Text] New York -- The UN Security Council has unanimously adopted a resolution demanding that Iran and Iraq immediately cease military operations and withdraw all forces to internationally recognized borders as the first step toward talks.

The Security Council called on both sides to cooperate with the UN secretary general in mediation efforts with a view to reaching an all-embracing, just, and honorable settlement acceptable to both sides on all the unsolved questions on the basis of the principles of the UN Charter. The Security Council's call to all other states to display maximum restraint and to refrain from any action that may lead to a further escalation and expansion of the conflict is of great importance.

The Security Council session, A.M. Belonogov, USSR permanent representative to the United Nations, said, reflects the deep concern felt by the overwhelming majority of the organization's members at the continuing armed conflict between Iran and Iraq. This concern is entirely shared by the Soviet Union, which is sincerely interested in eliminating dangerous points of tension in the immediate vicinity of its borders. The Soviet Union invariably advocates the speediest ending of the Iran-Iraq armed conflict and the resolution of disputed issues between Iran and Iraq, not on the battlefied but at the political negotiating table.

The Soviet Union has always pointed out that a settlement must be based on generally recognized norms of international law and order, territorial integrity, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs, and on confirmation of the borders that existed between Iran and Iraq before the start of the conflict.

The continuation of the protracted, pointless war between Iran and Iraq is promoting a dangerous growth of tension in the Persian Gulf. As a result, events there are nearing the danger point beyond which a regional conflict risks developing into an international crisis.

The Security Council's important decision was formulated on the initiative of the five permanent members. While welcoming this display of cooperation among countries on which the UN Charter places a special responsibility to maintain peace, it must be noted that not all of them are really helping achieve this noble goal. Although U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz, who addressed the session, spoke of the suffering of the peoples of the two warring countries and called on them to make peace, Washington's actual action in the region and the present buildup of U.S. naval forces in and around the Persian Gulf threatens to spread the conflict and turn it into an international crisis.

MOSCOW CONTRASTS USSR, U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

LD211809 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Viktor Levin commentary: "The Restructuring of International Relations and the Position of Imperialism"]

[Text] The word restructuring [perestroyka] has found a firm place in the international lexicon and is no longer translated into other languages.

In the British, French and German mass media the word perestroyka is written in Russian, though in Latin letters, of course. But when it does appear it is first and foremost -- I would even say mainly -- used when they are talking about restructuring within the Soviet Union. Yet, at the same time, life itself also is raising the question of the need for restructuring in international relations. The basis of this restructuring is the new philosophy of foreign policy that is being worked out by the Soviet Union, a philosophy which even today one can say is attractive for many peoples and many states, a philosophy which creates a foundation for a nuclear-free world, a foundation for a world in which interstate problems are not solved by military methods but only by political means. Put briefly, in foreign policy, too, we are giving priority to the interests of the person, to humanitarian values.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev has reported on many occasions that we have to learn to combine national interests with tasks that affect the whole of mankind. The Soviet Union's new foreign policy thinking is characterized by four basic principles. First of all, as I have already said, political measures are moved into the forefront in the business of ensuring the security of states. Secondly, the military component, which under today's conditions still retains its importance in ensuring the security of the two opposing sides, must undergo certain changes. Thirdly, the security of one group of people cannot be ensured at the expense of the security of others. And fourthly, the new foreign policy philosophy must include a rejection of the horizontal proliferation of confrontation between the USSR and the United States, between the Warsaw Pact and NATO.

Since the thesis here is, I would say, somewhat complicated I will try to elucidate it. We are talking about the fact that events in the world cannot be approached from the position that what is good, say, for the United States must inevitably be bad for the USSR, and vice versa, that what is good for the Soviet Union must inevitably be bad for the United States. To this one has to add further that under no circumstances can one approach regional problems from a position of confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States, between NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

This applies in particular to the situation in Central America, where, as you know, the policy of the United States is being dictated only by the line of preventing Nicaragua from being turned into a bulwark of international communism, as they say in the United States, a bulwark of the Soviet Union in that region. Therefore, the whole of the reality that accompanies this conflict, the will of the Nicaraguan people itself, the desire of other countries in Central America to find ways toward a political settlement, all this is cast aside by Washington and everything is done in order to suppress the desire of the Nicaraguan people for genuine freedom and for the creation of a truly independent and sovereign state.

This same policy by the United States also can be traced very clearly in the example of Afghanistan, now that the truce to achieve a political settlement in the country again has been extended, now that the government of Afghanistan has put forward a very important proposal aimed at consolidating all political forces in favor of peace, in favor of ending the bloodshed. As you know, even the post of chairman of the Council of Ministers, not to mention those of a whole range of ministers, can be given to representatives of the other side if they agree on a basis for ending the military actions and if peace is at last brought to the Afghan people; and now that Comrade Najibullah is saying quite rightly that the years that have passed have shown that we are not going to solve our problems by military means, we must embark upon a different path. Under the conditions, the United States is stubbornly and persistently continuing its policy of whipping up tension, of urging on the opponents of social and democratic reform in Afghanistan along the path of conflict with authority, and the same thing can be traced in a whole range of other issues.

Tomorrow, unless there are changes in the U.S. plans, U.S. warships are due to begin escorting Kuwaiti tankers under the U.S. flag. This whipping up of military tension in the Persian Gulf area by the United States is fraught with greater tension, not just in this region but with the spread of the tension to adjacent places. This is a very dangerous, explosive world center and the spread of the conflagration that might flare up there would be very, very dangerous. U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger states that if from the viewpoint of the commanders of the U.S. ships -- and he says that they have been given enormous authority to make their own decisions -- that if in their point of view of threat of missile strikes against U.S. ships arises, then these ship commanders have the right to deliver preemptive strikes against missile bases. So what we are talking about is a preventive strike, preventive military action by the United States.

This very dangerous whipping up of tension indicates first and foremost that the actions of the United States in Central America, its stubborn fanning of the flames of war in Afghanistan, all of this, I repeat, indicates that in the United States they have not renounced their imperial ambitions. All of it shows that imperialism--and U.S. imperialism specifically -- has no desire to respect the choice the peoples have made of their own destiny, that it looks upon entire continents as though they are within its own patrimony.

Against the background of this imperialist policy it is not just our calls for new political thinking but our actions confirming that the new political thinking and the new philosophy of foreign policy have become the foundation of the Soviet Union's foreign policy activity that show that the Soviet Union is demonstrating a policy aimed at solving the problems that face the whole of mankind, that our policy does not have a false bottom, our conscience is clear, our philosophy of international relations does not run counter to common sense but is based upon a deep scientific analysis of the processes and upon strict consideration for the interests of the working people.

It is not fortuitous that our foreign policy now enjoys enormous authority throughout the world. Let me remind you of figures that already have been published in our press but which deserve to be repeated once again. THE INDEPENDENT newspaper, a British newspaper, published an article not long ago in which the conclusion was drawn upon the basis of a wide public opinion poll carried out in a whole range of West European countries that the population of the countries of Western Europe believe, by a ratio of three to one, that the Soviet Union does more than the United States to slow down the arms race. This is a direct index of the authority of Soviet foreign policy, of the authority of our actions.

For imperialism, restructuring of international relations is like a thorn in the flesh, and we see this in the specific negotiations that are taking place now between the United States and the Soviet Union in Geneva on medium-range missiles and on operational and tactical missiles where the U.S. side is putting spokes in the wheels in every possible way; we see it in the attempts to avoid a solution of other vital problems. But the word of the Soviet Union, the authoritative, weighty word of the Soviet Union about the need for new approaches to international matters has been spoken. Even today this world is exerting an influence and it will continue to exert an increasing influence in the future.

U.S. ESCORT ACTION 'AGGRAVATING TENSE SITUATION'

LD211732 Moscow TASS in English 1724 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Washington July 21 TASS — A Pentagon spokesman has announced that the American flag had already been hoisted over two Kuwaiti tankers now standing on anchor in the Gulf of Oman near the eastern coast of the United Arab Emirates.

It is expected that the escort of these tankers by U.S. naval ships through the waters of the Hormuz Strait and the Persian Gulf will be started tonight. The escorting will be done by a powerful task force consisting, in particular, of three missile cruisers, one destroyer and four frigates.

What the Pentagon describes as a "tanker escort operation" is actually a large-scale military action with unpredictable consequences aggravating the already tense situation in the region. This action is being undertaken by the United States only 24 hours after the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of a resolution directed at stopping the Iran-Iraq conflict which has been continuing for already over six years.

White House Disregards Congress

LD211338 Moscow TASS in English 1209 GMT 21 Jul 87

["USA: Double Standards in Attitude to Iran-Iraq War" — TASS headline]

[Text] Washington July 21 TASS — Addressing a briefing on Monday, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater read out a White House statement saying that the USA will not spare efforts in support of a settlement of the (?Iran-Iraq) conflict, urges all the U.N. member countries to join in these efforts and use all of their influence on the belligerents in order to put an end to the tragic war.

At the same time, the spokesman for the White House made it clear that Washington did not intend to give up the build-up of U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf under the pretext of the protection of shipping.

Answering questions, Marlin Fitzwater was trying to present as two separate issues the Iran-Iraq conflict and the plans of the U.S. Administration to escort Kuwaiti ships. He disregarded the warnings made by U.S. Congress members who stress that the build-up of the U.S. Armed Forces in that explosive region is fraught with unpredictable consequences, an outbreak of hostilities and a sharp aggravation of the conflict.

Both chambers of the U.S. Congress were reported to have urged the administration to put off the plans for escorting Kuwaiti ships. Yet the White House clearly disregards the opinion of the American legislators. Fitzwater said that on Tuesday the first Kuwaiti tanker would be reflagged and be ready to go out to sea escorted by U.S. naval ships.

According to the Pentagon, at present the United States massed in the Persian Gulf nine men-of-war including cruisers, destroyers, frigates and the flag landing ship "La Salle." The presence of the latter is an indication of the intention of the U.S. (?Navy not) to confine itself to military operations at sea.

Besides, close by there is a squadron with aircraft carrier "Constellation" at its head. In August it will be joined by the battleship "Missouri". The armada is operating with the support of its ship-borne fighter and bomber aircraft.

The concentration in the adjoining areas of a big naval and aviation force gives the lie to the claims by the U.S. Administration that (?its plans) are not more than an operation of escorting Kuwaiti (?tankers) in real fact, [words indistinct] of the region. The U.S. force in [word indistinct] has been ordered to open fire even with the slightest sign of the [word indistinct] of "hostile intentions." According to the CBS television company, the U.S. Navy intends to use in the course of the operation tactics which were practiced in the course of the provocative U.S. Naval and Air Force exercises off Libya's shores.

U.S. TAKES 'NEGATIVE VIEW' ON DISCUSSING IRAN-IRAQ

LD220844 Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] REUTER news agency reports from Washington with reference to a White House spokesman that the United States Administration takes a negative view of the readiness voiced by the Soviet Union to discuss the situation in the Persian Gulf. The spokesman made the statement in connection with the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reply to President Reagan's message on the Iran-Iraq conflict. The Soviet message voices the USSR's grave concern over the growing tension in the Gulf. The main reasons for it, the message says, are the Iran-Iraq war and the growing American military presence in the area. Mikhail Gorbachev's message expresses readiness to discuss with the United States in concrete terms moves to normalize the situation in the Gulf area.

U.S.-JAPAN SDI COOPERATION REASONS 'GROUNDLESS'

PM201121 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jul 87 Second Edition p 4

["Statement by USSR Foreign Ministry Spokesman"]

[Text] An agreement is due to be signed in Washington within the next few days between Japan and the United States on the terms of Japanese firms' participation in the U.S. "Strategic Defense Initiative" program. The program officially seals Japan's joining in the practical implementation of the U.S. plans for the militarization of outer space.

In upholding that step, Japanese official circles furnished arguments about the allegedly "defensive" and "nonnuclear" character of SDI. It is well known, however, that the U.S. "Initiative" is a large military program for the development and deployment of strike weapons in outer space, an attempt at turning outer space into a potential theater of war.

Also groundless are references to the possibility that Japan will obtain some "technological benefits" from the participation in implementing U.S. military plans. The experience of the postwar Japan itself is proof that that country's research potential develops far more effectively and is more beneficial to her economy if it is not geared to military aims. [paragraph continues]

It is also obvious that the U.S. side clearly does not intend to generously share its potential achievements in this development program with its partners. Thus, the United States gets another very powerful lever for subordinating the development of science and technology in Japan to its selfish interests.

In September 1986 the Soviet side gave a principled assessment of Tokyo's decision approving Japan's participation in SDI as evidence of its further involvement in the military-strategic plans of the United States and running counter to the Japanese Government's statements on preparedness to act for strengthening peace and lessening international tensions.

It is deplorable that the Japanese Government has not reacted to the call for showing appropriate attention to the question of participation in SDI. Instead, Tokyo deemed it necessary to act so as to meet Washington's demands and practically join in preparations for "Star Wars."

By signing the above mentioned agreement with the United States, Japan will take no small part of responsibility for whipping up the arms race and spreading it into outer space.

SHCHERBITSKIY RECEIVES MPR ENVOY 17 JULY

LD211900 Kiev in English to Europe 1800 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Vladimir Shcherbitskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine Central Committee, received on 17 July Mongolian ambassador in the USSR, Gurbadam, upon the latter's request. During the talk that ensued in a warm and friendly atmosphere, Vladimir Shcherbitskiy told the guest about restructuring which is being realized in the Ukrainian SSR in all walks of life. The participants in the talk noted with satisfaction a high level of equitable cooperation, mutual understanding, and friendship between the Soviet Communist Party and the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, between the Soviet and Mongolian peoples.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT CONFIRMS SDI AGREEMENT

LD211450 Moscow TASS in English 1217 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Tokyo July 21 TASS -- The Japanese Government today confirmed its agreement with the United States on terms of Japan's participation in the U.S. "Star Wars" programme.

The NHK Television Company reported that the agreement would be signed by Japan's Ambassador to the United States Nobuo Matsunaga and U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger in Washington on Wednesday. The agreement was drawn up on the basis of Tokyo's "political decision" to participate in the SDI made last September.

ANALYSTS SAY JAPAN-USSR TIES TO REMAIN 'COOL'

OW220121 Tokyo KYODO in English 0109 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, July 21 KYODO -- The Soviet Union believes Japan might have changed its defense policy to turn itself into a military giant and is on the alert, diplomatic analysts said Tuesday. The analysts were commenting on a Japan-U.S. agreement signed in Washington Tuesday, facilitating Japanese participation in U.S. President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" research program.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Boris Pyadyshev told reporters last week Japan must bear a large responsibility for spreading the arms race in outer space through the Japan-U.S. accord on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). He said the Soviet Union issued a statement last September when Japan expressed its readiness to take part in the program and warned Japan-Soviet relations will deteriorate as a result.

PRAVDA, the official paper of the Soviet Communist Party, said Japan's role in the space-based missile defense program conflicts with its "peace constitution." It also said Japan's involvement violates a diet resolution limiting space development only to peaceful purposes and banning exports of arms and military technology. The paper thus indicated Japan might have changed its defense policy in favor of militarism by participating in the SDI program.

Diplomatic analysts said Moscow branded as an "anti-Soviet campaign" a dispute over Japanese high technology exports and industrial espionage allegedly involving Soviet agents, adding Japan-Soviet relations will remain cool for the time being.

U.S.-ESCORTED TANKERS HEAD FOR PERSIAN GULF

LD220806 Moscow TASS in English 0800 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] London July 22 TASS -- The United States, which has concentrated a powerful naval force in the Persian Gulf under the pretext of "ensuring the freedom of navigation", has launched the operation to escort Kuwaiti oil tankers.

The tankers "Bridgeton" and "Gas Prince" flying the Stars and Stripes have headed under the escort of U.S. Navy ships towards the gate of the Persian Gulf, REUTER reported.

PRAVDA COMMENTS ON 'IMMINENT' THREAT IN GULF

PM211523 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Jul 87 Second Edition p 6

[Pavel Demchenko "Political Diary": "Sparks of Conflagration Over Oil Sea"]

[Text] Events, like a powerful searchlight, highlight now one, now another part of the world. But regions which smell of powder attract special attention in our uneasy age.

I think the reader will agree that the Persian Gulf has been just such a place throughout the past week. Tension has been growing there day by day, approaching the point where the United States may get drawn into the Iran-Iraq conflict which has now been continuing for almost 7 years. The acuteness of the situation is such that this could happen at any moment. Journalists are even naming precise dates after which the likelihood of intervention will become particularly real -- 20 or 22 July.

Unfortunately, these are not empty words, and there are very weighty grounds for them. The point is that the Iran-Iraq conflict led to the so-called "tanker war," when the two opposing countries began making bombing or missile strikes on ships sailing under various flags. Approximately 330 ships were hit in the space of 3 years. Recently Kuwait has felt a particular threat to itself.

Why precisely Kuwait? The answer is simple. Saudi Arabia -- the chief oil producer -- has built a pipeline from the extraction locations to the Red Sea, thus circumventing the problem. It is also helping other countries with the transportation of oil. But Kuwait, in the depth of the Gulf, relies on tankers. Moreover, it is being subjected to strong pressure from Tehran for its support for Iraq. This is precisely why Kuwait has decided, among other measures, to transfer 11 of its tankers to U.S. companies for a symbolic payment, so that they can begin shipping oil under their own flag.

There would be nothing extraordinary about this fact if this were a conventional commercial deal. But the point is that, taking advantage of the exacerbation of the situation in the Gulf, the Pentagon began back in spring to assemble large naval and air forces there, accompanying that with a harsh anti-Iranian campaign. "President Reagan," the Algerian newspaper EL MOUDJAHID wrote in this connection, "has become obsessed with the idea of preparing an operation against Iran resembling the invasion of Grenada and the bombing of Libya."

In other words, having been unable to arrange relations with even a section of the Iranian leadership with the help of the secret weapons deliveries exposed in the course of the sensational affair known as "Irangate," Washington has now conceived the intention to taking vengeance on Iran and is only seeking a pretext. So, there emerged the plan to inflict a "preventive strike" against Iranian missile installations if they were to appear near the Strait of Hormuz (at the entrance to the Gulf). When those installations, of the foreign press is to be believed, actually appeared there on 13 July, U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger declared: A strike will be made if the United States gains the impression that Iran is preparing (?!) to launch missiles.

A dangerous situation has been created, for the U.S. threats have come up against the Iranian ledership's fanatical persistence in continuing the war in the Gulf to its victorious conclusion, however long it may take and however much it may cost. The impression is gained that a vicious circle has arisen. The concentration of U.S. forces only provokes countermeasures. At the same time, the Pentagon is using the other side's intrasigence to move more and more new reinforcements into that part of the world and, generally, to justify the U.S. military presence which has already been there for many years.

Nine warships of the U.S. Navy are now in the waters of the Gulf. Two carrier-borne groups are being concentrated in the Arabian Sea. A battleship is hurrying to their "assistance" from the distant Gulf of Mexico. In short, a powerful force is being assembled and, it has to be thought, the scale of the operation being planned is in keeping with that might. In addition, reports have appeared that Britain and France also want to show their flag and introduce at least one warship each into the Gulf.

Where is the way out of the situation, how is the imminent flare-up to be avoided? There is a way out: The immediate withdrawal from the Persian Gulf of all warships of states not concerned with that region. Including, of course, the Soviet ones which were forced to go there with the knowledge and consent of the littoral countries to escort our merchant ships (two of them were also hit, as is known).

I will point out that there are far fewer of our ships than U.S. ones. But this is not the chief point. We threaten, blackmail, and bully no one. The Soviet flag is not being used to fuel tension, whereas the Pentagon is plainly walking the brink of a major international crisis. All this for the sake of keeping control of a very rich oil region situated, moreover, close to Soviet borders.

Of course, it would be far more rational and logical in such an inflamed situation not to intensify confrontation but to act together, and not only in the cause of ensuring safety of shipping in the Persian Gulf. I believe that powers such as the USSR, the United States, and the other permanent members of the UN Security Council, if they worked collectively and relied on the nonaligned countries, would be capable of at last halting the protracted Iran-Iraq conflict which has brought people so much misfortune. And this would also mean an end to the "tanker war."

However, imperial ambitions still prevail in Washington's corridors of power. The press reports that an operation conceived as a major show of force is being prepared: Tankers which have been transferred to the Americans are assembling in the Arabian Sea in order then to sail in convoy past Iranian missile installations accompanied by a detachment of U.S. warships. This could happen any day now...

IZVESTIYA'S GEYVANDOV VIEWS PERSIAN GULF EVENTS

PM170728 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Konstantin Geyvandov article under the rubric "Political Observer's Opinion": "Will Common Sense Prevail?"]

[Text] Reports in recent days on events involving the Persian Gulf region are contradictory in nature. On the one hand, the buildup of the U.S. military presence there continues, and the saber-rattling grows ever louder. So the possibility is not excluded that the many years of armed conflict between Iraq and Iran will extend greatly and take on a new scale, still more dangerous to international peace and security.

Although Washington is still trying to justify the escalation of its military activeness in terms of the desire to ensure freedom of shipping and an uninterrupted flow of oil to the West, many observers are forming an entirely different opinion. Thus in an interview for THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE newspaper an unnamed "expert on shipping problems" stated: "In my opinion the United States is looking for a pretext for a strike against Iran like the one it made against Libya." Judging from reports in the world press, Tehran takes very seriously the possibility of such a turn of events, and is actively preparing to ensure that it is not caught unawares. In any event, the British magazine JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY the other day went into detail about a plan elaborated by Iran for unleashing guerrilla warfare against the United States.

That is on the one hand. On the other hand, THE WASHINGTON POST has just published under the heading "Possibility of Lessening Tension in the Persian Gulf" a rather interesting article from which I will also permit myself to quote one point. "Behind the Reagan administration's plan," the article says, "which is causing arguments but is moving forward -- the plan to take Kuwaiti tankers under the U.S. wing -- one can see a broader and more positive political course taking shape in terms of events in the Persian Gulf. It is interesting and paradoxical that the administration, which, judging from statements by both friends and critics, is fully determined to strengthen U.S. power (in the Gulf region -- K.G.) by its own efforts, is going over to a policy based to an ever increasing extent on actions through the mediation of and in unison with the United Nations."

The author of the item describes this as a move by the conservative U.S. Administration to the positions of the philosophy of "liberal internationalism." I cannot help wondering: Does that mean that common sense is beginning to prevail in official Washington, at least as regards the unpredictable consequences of an escalation of the war in the Persian Gulf? Especially since there are, I believe, very weighty grounds for such a turn of events. First, the more details you learn about the U.S. President's decision to step up the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf region, the more obvious it becomes that it is a question of the action of a loner. The administration has failed to enlist the support virtually of a single politician in the U.S. Congress for these military plans. On Capitol Hill the desire to dissociate oneself from the White House's policy on this question is so great that the House of Representatives even tried at least to block for a few months the start of the U.S. naval escort for Kuwaiti tankers, if it could not stop it entirely.

Second, the European partners of the United States take a position analogous to that of the U.S. Congress. This applies first and foremost to Britain and France, which, having considerable experience of a presence in the Persian Gulf region, are watching the U.S. escalation of saber-rattling with unconcealed concern. Things have gone so far that one high-ranking French figure, THE NEW YORK TIMES reported, described as absurd Washington's public justifications of the "correctness" of its policy in the Persian Gulf region, especially as regards the imaginary "Soviet threat." And THE WASHINGTON POST wrote in this connection the other day: "There is no threat to our oil supplies, yet we are behaving as if there was such a threat, while Western Europe and Japan, who most need the oil from the Persian Gulf, are apparently remaining entirely calm. Besides, the world's main oil importers know that there is no threat to the vitally important channels of supply."

The real, rather than imaginary, threat both to free shipping, and to the unhampered flow of oil, and to peace and security is the expansion of the Iraq-Iran armed conflict, with the active involvement of the United States. And in the conditions which have arisen common sense firmly dictates the need to adopt urgent and effective measures to help radically lessen tension in the Persian Gulf zone, and ultimately promote an end to the many years of war between Iran and Iraq. In this context, I think, the Soviet proposal that all the warships of states not belonging to the Persian Gulf region be withdrawn from its waters in a very short space of time and that Iran and Iraq, for their part, refrain from actions creating a threat to international shipping, could not have been more timely. So if common sense is indeed beginning to prevail in Washington's policy, the best proof of this would be a change in the negative reaction to this Soviet proposal.

There is no doubt that measures of this kind, which, moreover, would be carried out within the framework of a comprehensive settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict, would, on the one hand, help to calm down the situation and promote the elimination of the threat of a widening of the explosive seat of military tension. On the other hand, they would create a more favorable atmosphere for the quest now under way for ways of putting a speedy end to the Iraq-Iran war and channeling the conflict toward peaceful solutions. It is a question, in particular, of political efforts being undertaken within the UN framework, where the Soviet Union, together with the other Security Council members, calls for effective measurs in this direction, including an immediate cease-fire and cessation of all military operations and the speedy withdrawal of all troops to the internationally recognized borders.

That is how things stand today as regards common sense in relation to the Persian Gulf situation, and one would wish Washington's answer to the words of the headline, with their question mark, to be in the affirmative.

FURTHER COVERAGE OF NAJIBULLAH'S NEWS CONFERENCE

LD212133 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1853 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Video report on 21 July press conference in Moscow given by Najibullah, PDPA Central Committee general secretary; questions by journalists in Russian, Najibullah's answers in vernacular fading to announcer's translation in Russian -- from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] A press conference by Comrade Najib, PDPA Central Committee general secretary, was held in Moscow today. He gave his impressions of the 20 July meeting in the Kremlin with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, during which various aspects of Soviet-Afghan cooperation were discussed, and an exchange of opinions on a number of international problems, including those connected with Afghanistan, took place.

Comrade Najib noted the cordial and sincere atmosphere of the meetings with Comrade Gorbachev and with other Soviet leaders, and their mobilizing significance for the DRA leadership and people in efforts to establish peace in Afghanistan. He stressed the unity of our two countries concerning the current political course of the DRA toward establishing peaceful dialogue with all opposition forces of Afghanistan, both within and beyond its border, toward strengthening friendly relations with all of Afghanistan's neighbors in the region, and toward development of political and social activeness of people's power in the country.

Comrade Najib spoke in detail about the successes and difficulties in implementing the policy of national reconciliation in Afghanistan. He recalled the measure being undertaken by the PDPA and the leadership of the country to create a coalition government in Afghanistan, and to unify all national and patriotic forces which are truly in favor of a peaceful and nonaligned Afghanistan. In the 185 days which have passed since the announcement of the unilateral cease-fire, 1,335 villages have been liberated by peaceful means. A number of the country's provinces are turning into provinces of peace. Recently, 15,000 armed rebels have come over to the side of the people's government; another 40,000 peaceful citizens were connected with them. A universal amnesty has been declared for prisoners, as a result of which 6,000 people have been released from prison so far.

Comrade Najib then replied to numerous questions from journalists.

[Journalist] ASAHI, Japan: What is your position on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan? Does this give any grounds to suppose that the USSR and Afghanistan already have a specific schedule for withdrawal of Soviet troops?

[Najibullah] Our position on this issue, as before, is a constructive one. Parts of the limited Soviet contingent have already been withdrawn -- twice, in 1982 and in 1986. I would like to repeat again quite firmly that once the interference in our affairs, and the aggression unleashed with the support of the United States and its NATO allies have ended, once the relevant international guarantees that this aggression will not be resumed have been given, the schedule for the withdrawal of Soviet troops agreed between the DRA and the USSR will be implemented.

It is appropriate here to address a question to the Reagan administration: Why does it continue to expand the scale of its interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs? I see many familiar faces in the hall, people who have visited our country, and who have probably seen our shot-down passenger aircraft, and the dead, among whom were women and children. They were shot down by weapons put into our enemies' hands by those who preach a policy of state terrorism.

The question of the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingent from our country is thus indissolubly and dialectically connected with the issue of ending the aggression and interference in our affairs.

[Journalist] The next question is from CTK agency, Czechoslovakia. What will be the position brought to the next Geneva meeting by the DRA's delegation? What do you expect from this meeting?

[Najibullah] The position of the DRA's delegation at the next Geneva meeting will, as before, be flexible and constructive. We are going to these talks in order to resolve questions of peace, not of war. At the talks we would like to see a rapprochement of our and Pakistan's positions, and not a divergence of them. And we hope that this round of the talks will be the first firm step along the path of establishing real peace in the country.

[Journalist] A question from TRYBUNA LUDU, Poland. What about the role of the PDPA in the creation of a multiparty system in the country?

[Najibullah] In conditions where true democratization of life is to be ensured, in conditions of pluralism, various forces will indeed by able to enjoy equal rights in the country. Since the PDPA is the instigator of the policy of national reconciliation, it is truly an organizing and directing force at this moment -- the party will preserve its organizing and mobilizing role.

[Journalist] Comrade Najib, you were talking about the draft constitution which is now being widely discussed throughout Afghanistan. Very agreeable news is arriving from Kabul that the people enthusiastically welcomed the draft constitution. But, unfortunately, other reports are also coming in: We recently had a report that some leaders of the Afghan counterrevolutionary camp are declaring that they will never join a coalition with the PDPA. In this connection, I would like to know your view on this matter.

[Najibullah] Serious work has been carried out to compile a new draft constitution. There were eminent political and public figures working on it for a period of approximately 16 months, and they worked out 27 different versions. Altogether, the constitution contains 13 chapters and 137 articles. The constitution provides for, among other things, a change of the name from the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to the Republic of Afghanistan. It envisages presidential rule, and also other changes. All of this, as you know, has been submitted for nationwide discussion. After the nationwide discussion, the constitution will be approved at a supreme assembly. Taking part in the work of this assembly will be elected representatives of all levels and nationalities of our country. We would like this constitution and the discussion of it to be a touchstone, a criterion for determining who in our country is truly in favor of democracy, and who is simply trying to flirt with it and abuse it. As for our enemies, they are trying to undermine not only our democratic intitiatives, they do not believe in their own potential support on some sort of principles of democracy. This is shown by their rejection of attempts to conduct their own elections in the counterrevolutionary camp to elect some sort of national council of the mujahidin. There are enemies of democracy both inside the country and beyond its border.

[Journalist] A correspondent from Greece. There are a lot of myths being spread about refugees returning home. What is the true position in this matter?

[Najibullah] I would not like to discuss myths. That is probably not the occupation for politicians. The actual situation is as follows:

Over the past 6 months, more than 60,000 refugees returned to the country while over the previous 7 years there were only about 37,000. And of course, if various obstacles had not been put in the way of the repatriates -- intimidation, bribery, misuse of the tenets of the Koran, and also acts of direct terror on the part of Pakistan and the Afghan counterrevolution -- then the numbers of repatriates would have been immeasurably greater. So, for us, these 60,000 refugees are patriots who have responded to the appeal of their homeland and have returned to the land of their forebearers, despite all barriers.

What are we, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, doing for the reception of the refugees? A special state committee for repatriate affairs has been set up in our country. The refugees return to their homes by various means of transportation, including by helicopter. For their temporary accomodation en route peace hotels, as we call them, have been built. We are helping people to sort themselves out locally after they return. We provide them with free medication. We send the children to be educated in schools. Many repatriates have already been elected to local authority bodies, to commissions of reconciliation at various levels. To put it briefly, they enjoy full political rights in our country. I would like to invite those who are interested in refugee questions to come to our country and see how things are with us.

[Unidentified journalist in English] Dr Najib, you have been speaking about a number of posts which you will be prepared to share with the opposition. If your participation in the government becomes the subject of quarrels, will you then be able to remove yourself to stand aside?

[Najibullah] For us revolutionaries the main thing in life is the struggle for the highest interests of our people. And to ensure these interests we are ready to renounce, ready to sacrifice, not only our posts but life itself. We are guided only by the interests of the people.

[Announcer] Comrade Najib also replied to other questions from journalists.

MAGAZINE 'UNUSUALLY FRANK' IN DESCRIBING DRA WAR

AU210658 Paris AFP in English 0633 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Sylvie Kauffmann report]

[Text] Moscow, July 21 (AFP) -- As Afghan leader Najibullah visits Moscow for talks with Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev, a Soviet magazine has published an unusually frank report of the war in Afghanistan, seen through the eyes of one of its reporters.

Reporter Artem Borovik, who visited the rugged country for the magazine OGONEK, recounts a meeting with a local Afghan Communist Party official who tells him that the war "is not going as well as all that."

The leader, Mohammed Yassine, tells the journalist in the northern province of Konduz that "attacks against our garrisons are increasing, we control 290 of the 433 villages in the province."

Mr. Yassine tells the journalist -- who clearly supports the Soviet-backed government side in the war -- that he had known one of the local rebel leaders when he was a boy in the same school as him.

The guerrilla chief, known as Goulbiddin, had been one of group who "threw acid in the faces of women who were not wearing the chador", or Moslem veil, he said.

"That way the women had to wear a veil anyway," the party official told the reporter, adding that in his view the "counter-revolutionary leaders have borrowed a great deal from Hilter."

Mr. Borovik also published extracts from the diary of a Soviet helicopter pilot, named as Yuriy Vladykin, who wrote of the problems posed for pro-government aircraft by the U.S.-supplied Stinger anti-aircraft missiles being used by the rebels.

"November 4. Lieutenant Sergey Chinnikov, pilot of an MI-8 (helicopter), died in the mountains on November 1," the pilot writes.

"I was sent in, and the first thing I saw was the horror of burnt heads, showing their teeth. Sergey and two soldiers had not been able to get out of the burning craft."

"When we tried to go in to collect them, a grenade exploded five metres away. I made the return flight with the burned bodies -- for two or three days my flying suit smelled of grilled flesh."

"November 15. Parachute drop on the Black Mountain. The first 30 minutes: calm. Then they started firing. There were so many impacts (on the mountainside) that even stones were falling through the air."

"... We all got out alive. But Fedoritch, no doubt, will never fly again. Pilots have flown without feet -- but never without hands.

"April 12. March has come and gone. From the fourth to the 18th I went home to my folks. There aren't words to describe it, a reunion after a long separation. And then here I am, back in Afghanistan," the diary reads.

In another part of the article, the journalist describes a discussion with the Afghan State Security Officer for Konduz, who tells him why soldiers in the Afghan army tend to desert to the rebels.

"I'll tell you one reason," Colonel Abdul Fakir-Zad says. "The wages aren't high enough."

"A soldier gets paid one-fifth as much as a rebel in the Akmachah band. He can sell his standard-issue pistol for 80,000 afghanis on the black market. With that, one can feed a family for a year," he says, adding that a kilogram (two pounds) of butter costs 250 afghanis.

"Morale and political awareness in many Afghan units is not what it could be," the colonel told OGONEK.

PRESIDIUM CONGRATULATES INDIAN PRESIDENT

LD172116 Moscow TASS in English 2018 GMT 17 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 17 TASS -- The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has sent a message to Ramaswamy Venkataraman which says:

Esteemed Mr. President,

Accept sincere congratulations on the occasion of your having been elected to the presidency of the Republic of India.

We are confident that your activities in this high post will be marked with India's new successes on the road of socio-econmic development, its enhanced prestige in the world scene, further deepening of friendly Soviet-Indian relations and cooperation in all areas.

We wish you, esteemed Mr. President, good health and successes, wellbeing and prosperity to the great Indian people.

PAKISTANI MILITARY FORCES SHELL INDIA'S TERRITORY

LD200721 Moscow TASS in English 0714 GMT 20 Jul 87

["Pakistan -- Provocation" -- TASS headline]

[Text] New Delhi July 20 TASS -- Pakistani troops have again shelled India's territory in one of the sectors of the control line that divides India from the Pakistani-occupied part of Jammu and Kashmir state.

The newspaper TIMES OF INDIA reported today that as a result of the provocation started in the border area of Punch press, the organization of such armed actions leads to the aggravation of the situation in the border areas of India to the growth of casualties among the civilian population.

VORONTSOV, PETROVSKIY MEET MAURITANIAN OFFICIAL

LD151745 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Soviet-Mauritanian political consultations were held at the Soviet Foreign Ministry on 14 and 15 July. They were attended on the Soviet side by First Deputy Foreign Minister Vorontsov and Deputy Foreign Minister Petrovskiy, and on the Mauritanian side by [name indistinct], secretary general of the Mauritanian Foreign Ministry.

SYRIAN INTERIOR MINISTER ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

JN211558 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Interior Minister Muhammad Ghabbash arrived in Moscow today, heading an official delegation on a visit of several days to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Interior Ministry. On hand to see Ghabbash at the airport were Aleksandr Vladimirovich Vlasov, Soviet minister of internal affairs, and other officials.

SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION VISITS THE CONGO

Arrival Statement Made

PM101829 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Arrival in Congo"]

[Text] A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by A.A. Mokanu, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has arrived in Brazzaville on an official visit at the invitation of the Congolese People's National Assembly.

A.A. Mokanu made a statement to the press at the airport. The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation, he said, is extremely grateful to Congolese President D. Sassou-Nguesso and Gangou Zalzou, president of the People's National Assembly, for the friendly invitation to visit the Congo. During the meetings and conversations on Congolese soil we would like to discuss with the country's leadership and parliamentary deputies everything which troubles us in contemporary world affairs and ponder what can be done so that the world in which we live becomes safe and just. Of course, the head of the delegation stressed, we will pay attention to Soviet-Congolese relations, and exchange opinions on ways to further develop them in the spirit of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the USSR and the Congo.

The delegation was met at the airport by A. Muele [name as published], first deputy chairman of the People's National Assembly, and other officials.

Received at Parliament

PM141309 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Visit by Delegation"]

[Text] Brazzaville, 10 July — A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by A.A. Mokanu, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which is in the People's Republic of the Congo on an official visit at the invitation of the Congolese People's National Assembly, was received on Thursday by Gangou Zalzou, president of the Congolese parliament. During the friendly conversation Gangou Zalzou pointed out that traditional friendly relations subsist between the USSR and the Congo. The 1981 USSR-Congolese Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation makes an important contribution to the strengthening and development of these relations.

The president of the Congolese People's National Assembly noted that the CPSU and the Congolese Labor Party (PCT) and the Soviet and Congolese peoples are waging a single-minded struggle to preserve peace, strengthen international security, and end the arms race.

Gangou Zalzou pointed out that a large number of military conflicts are being waged on the African Continent. These hotbeds of tension are being used by imperialism to impede our progressive development. However, Africa does not wish to be an arena of imperialist brigandage any longer.

The head of the Soviet delegation noted the importance of developing and strengthening the traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and the Congo. He informed the president of the Congolese parliament of the efforts by Soviet working people to resolve the tasks of socioeconomic development outlined by the 27th CPSU Congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums and of preparations to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

We regard our visit, A.A. Mokanu said, as a good opportunity to exchange experience in socioeconomic building and in work by higher organs of power. There are still reserves to develop our bilateral ties. The Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation has opened up good opportunities to use these reserves.

The CPSU has set Soviet working people large tasks and, if they are to be fulfilled, we need lasting, guaranteed peace. The achievement of this is the main aim of Soviet foreign policy, the head of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation said.

Meets With Congolese President

PM171445 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS reports: "Visit by Delegation"]

[Text] Brazzaville, 15 July -- The People's Republic of the Congo supports all the peace initiatives put forward by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the OAU and Congolese president, has said here. We stand alongside the Soviet Union in the struggle for peace, disarmament, and international security, he said when receiving A.A. Mokanu, head of a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation and deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, yesterday. Preserving peace, preventing war, and ending the arms race are the most vital task. Enormous material and spiritual resources and the latest technology must be used in the interests of all mankind and, in particular, for the good of developing countries. The African peoples are in favor of peace and disarmament, against the stationing of nuclear arms in their territory, and in favor of making the continent a nuclear-free zone.

The situation in southern Africa, D. Sassou-Nguesso noted, is still tense and explosive. With the connivance and frank support of Western powers, primarily the United States, the racist RSA regime continues its repression of the country's African majority and openly supports UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] gangs in Angola. Washington has received Savimbi, the leader of this grouping, with pomp and ceremony. But despite the terror, liberation forces are not standing idle. They are fighting the apartheid regime with every means at their disposal. We resolutely support any steps in assisting those fighting for southern Africa's freedom and the Frontline States, the Congolese president stressed, and we are in favour of Namibian independence.

During the conversation D. Sassou-Nguesso expressed satisfaction with the level of development of Soviet-Congolese relations and the practice of regular exchanges of delegations.

Brazzaville, 15 July -- Soviet and Congolese parliamentarians are in favor of the earliest possible implementation of the 27th CPSU Congress idea of creating a comprehensive international security system, according to the joint statement on the results of the official visit to the Congo by the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by A.A. Mokanu, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. They called for greater efforts by all states to eliminate the threat of nuclear war, achieve disarmament, particularly in the nuclear weapons sphere, ensure the peaceful settlement of conflicts through negotiation, and develop international cooperation on an equitable, mutually advantageous basis. The new Soviet initiatives aimed at creating a nuclear-free, nonviolent world were noted in this connection. The sides spoke in favor of forming a nuclear-free zone in Africa and establishing a new international economic order.

The Soviet and Congolese parliamentarians noted the growing role played by the OAU in defending the interests of the African peoples and the great contribution made by D. Sassou-Nguesso, chairman of the OAU and Congolese president, to enhancing this organization's prestige. They spoke out in favor of stepping up efforts aimed at eliminating the last vestiges of colonialism, racism, and apartheid in southern Africa and reaffirmed their support for the Frontline States and the liberation struggle being waged by the South-West African People's Organization and the African National Congress of South Africa.

The joint statement notes the high level of relations between the two countries' peoples established on the basis of the USSR-Congolese Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation. Exchanges of delegations between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Congolese People's National Assembly have successfully helped to promote the strengthening and development of these relations.

The Soviet delegation, the document points out, informed the Congolese side on progress made in restructuring all aspects of life in the USSR in the interests of speeding up socioeconomic development and deepening the democratization of Soviet society. The parliamentarians also described preparations to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The Congolese parliamentarians briefed the Soviet side on the implementation of the Third Congolese Labor Party Congress decisions and the results of the first Congolese 5-Year Plan.

BRIEFS

MADAGASCAR GROUP RECEIVED -- A delegation from the People's National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar was received in the USSR Supreme Soviet on 22 July. In greeting his visitors, Voss, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities, stressed that the USSR ascribes great significance to the visit, which is a new step in the development of interparliamentary links between the two countries. Andrianarahinjaka, president of the People's National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, noted that on the most important current issues the positions of the Soviet Union and Madagascar either coincide or are close. The head of the delegation said that in his country there is great interest in the life of the Soviet people. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0000 GMT 22 Jul 87 LD]

NIKONOV MEETS JARUZELSKI, CONCLUDES VISIT TO PPR

Discusses Congress Resolutions

LD212217 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Jul 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The working visit by Comrade Nikonov to the Polish People's Republic finished today. Our correspondent reports:

[V. Beletskiy and V. Yablokov reporting identified by screen caption] In Warsaw today Comrade Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State of the Polish People's Republic, received Comrade Nikonov. During a conversation, which took place in a cordial atmosphere, matters concerned with implementing the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 10th PZPR Congress were discussed, above all those connected with the further development of cooperation in agriculture and the food industry.

Today Comrade Nikonov also visited the Institute of Fruit and Flower Growing in the provincial center of Skierniewice. Although this is the main center, its experimental stations are located throughout the country. It is a scientific research establishment already famous for its achievements in Poland and abroad. (Stanislaw Zagaj), director of the institute, talked about the topics on which scientific work is being conducted.

[Begin (Zagaj) recording in Polish with superimposed Russian translation] Fruit growing is a labor-intensive business. Naturally, great attention is being paid to the mechanization of it, the use of machines, and the development of production processes. The preservation and processing of fruit and berries, the protection of the harvest from pests, is one of the main areas of work of Polish scientists. [end recording]

Returns to Moscow 21 July

LD212221 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Jul 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] This same day Comrade Nikonov returned to Moscow. At the airport he was met by Comrade Slyunkov and other officials.

POLAND'S SEJM DEBATES 'URGENT' ECONOMIC ISSUES

PM211415 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Urgent Problems Discussed"]

[Text] Warsaw, 16 Jul -- Questions of the country's economic development were discussed at the session of the Polish Sejm which ended here today. Taking part in its work were W. Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Polish State Council, Z. Messner, PZPR Central Committee Politburo member and chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, and other leaders of the country.

The deputies approved the government reports on the fulfillment of the socioeconomic development plan and the execution of the state budget and other financial documents for 1986. It was stressed that last year's plan indicators in industry and agriculture were overfulfilled and that the national income growth rate was 5.2 percent higher than in 1985. Deputies pointed to shortcomings and omissions in the Polish economy.

JOINT CSSR MILITARY EXERCISES END 21 JULY

LD211638 Moscow TASS in English 1608 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 21 TASS -- The joint military exercises of the Central Group and the Czechoslovak People's Army ended in Czechoslovakia today. Control and cooperation between various arms were trained.

According to the exercises' command, the results were instructive and showed the troops' increased field training standards.

The tasks set to the exercises were fulfilled and the troops are now returning to the places of their permanent stationing.

In conformity with the document of the Stockholm conference the exercises were attended by observers of the states-participants in the Conference on European Security and Cooperation.

CSSR'S CHNOUPEK TRAVELS TO HUNGARY, MEETS KADAR

PM211133 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jul 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Comradely Meeting"]

[Text] Budapest, 16 July -- CSSR Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek, who is paying an official friendly visit to Hungary, was received here Wednesday by MSZMP General Secretary Janos Kadar.

MTI reports that during the meeting, which was held in a cordial and comradely atmosphere, an exchange of opinions took place on some questions of international life and of Hungarian-Czechoslovak relations.

A joint communique has been published on the results of the CSSR minister's visit. Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the document says, support the USSR's proposals aimed at disarmament and eliminating medium-range and operational and tactical missiles in Europe.

Hungary and the CSSR declared their support for the socialist countries' proposal on creating an all-embracing system of international security. The sides advocated the earliest opening of talks on armed forces and conventional arms reduction in Europe. Hungary approved the initiatives of the CSSR and GDR concerning the creation in Europe of a nuclear-free corridor and a zone free of chemical weapons.

GREETINGS TELEGRAM TO NICARAGUA ON 8TH ANNIVERSARY

LD181342 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1255 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 18 Jul (TASS) -- The Soviet Union puts a high value on the friendly nature of relations with Nicaragua and attaches great importance to the development of Soviet-Nicaraguan cooperation, which meets mutual interests. So states a greetings telegram which the Soviet leadership has sent to the leadership of Nicaragua in connection with the eighth anniversary of the Sandinist revolution.

The message notes that the aggressive circles of the United States, which are striving for a restoration of their hegemony in Central America, are attempting to hinder peaceful construction in Nicaragua through their mercenaries. The Soviet people are in solidarity with the just cause of the Nicaraguan people and support their determination to live and work in peace, without diktat and interference from the outside, the telegram says.

TASS Reports Celebration

LD181814 Moscow TASS in English 1522 GMT 18 Jul 87

[Text] Managua July 18 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Trushin reports:

Red-and-black flags of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, posters with words "No One Will Surrender" decked out the streets and squares of Managua, of other Nicaraguan cities. On July 19, the Nicaraguan people marks the eighth anniversary of the victory of the Sandinist people's revolution. Eight years ago guerrilla units of the Sandinist National Liberlation Front entered Managua to give the decisive battle to the abominable Somoza regime.

After the overthrow of Somoza tyranny, Nicaragua entered upon a new stage in its history -- the stage of combatting backwardness, poverty, economic disarray and illiteracy which the Nicaraguan people inherited from the overthrown pro-American regime.

The construction of new life in Nicaragua takes place in extremely difficult conditions. There were hardly any peaceful days for the Nicaraguan people over the past eight years. U.S. imperialism employed the entire arsenal of military, political, economic and propaganda means to plunge the Nicaraguan people back into its Somocista past, to prevent the people of Sandino from deciding its own destiny. The damage inflicted on the Nicaraguan republic as a result of the U.S. aggression amounts to nearly three billion dollars. 60 thousand people were killed in the liberation struggle, 43 thousand people fell victim to the undeclared war by the United States. The Nicaraguan Government has to spend half of its budget for defences.

Despite great difficulties, remarkable changes have taken place in Nicaragua in the years that have passed since the revolution. Social injustice was removed. The revolutionary government gave land to over 100 thousand peasants. Many dangerous diseases have been wiped out in Nicaragua. To mark the eighth anniversary of the revolution, hundreds of students, teachers, state employees formed volunteer teams for combatting illiteracy among the adult population.

The past year saw important events in the life of the Nicaraguan people. In conditions of unremitting aggression, the first truly democratic constitution in the history of Nicaragua was worked out and adopted. It consolidated the revolutionary gains. The process of granting autonomy to national minorities has been started.

This process made it possible to draw Nicaraguan Indians in the political and social affairs.

The Nicaraguan people is not alone in combatting the intrigues of U.S. imperialism. It has on its side all progressive forces of the world. The Soviet-Nicaraguan cooperation widens and strengthens. Fraternal assistance of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries to the Sandinist revolution is of vital importance for it.

IZVESTIYA INTERVIEWS NICARAGUAN INTERIOR MINISTER

PM210833 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jul 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Interview with Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge by own correspondent V. Silantyev: "Loyalty to the Ideals of Sandino" -- date not given]

[Text] Managua -- The name Tomas Borge, veteran revolutionary and Nicaraguan interior minister, is well known in our country. A member of the Sandinist leadership, he made a big contribution to the victory of the revolution, whose 8th anniversary the Nicaraguan people celebrate on 19 July. An IZVESTIYA correspondent asked Tomas Borge a number of questions:

[Silantyev] For 8 years the Nicaraguan people have been courageously upholding their freedom and independence. What, in your view, are the main results of these years?

[Borge] The success of the people's Sandinist revolution is due to several factors.

The first and main one is the people's and democratic nature of the revolution. Had it not been for the constant and deep links between the government and the majority of the population, had it not been for the people's constant, active, mass participation in the defense of the homeland and in the development of its economy, we would hardly have been able to successfully repel counterrevolutionary aggression.

The second factor is that we have found the right path to national unity. We are relying on the collective leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the active work of thousands of its members. We realize that the people's reliable support can be ensured if they are guided by a united vanguard of like-minded people. The historical justice of our struggle, inherited from Sandino, is obvious. We have learned to maintain constant combat vigilance. Among the other factors, we must note international support and solidarity, in particular the fraternal Soviet people's selfless assistance.

People's power, national unity, the revolutionary armed forces, and broad international support -- these are the main factors which have helped us to endure and to win today.

[Silantyev] The U.S. Administration accuses the Sandinist government of allegedly violating human rights. What can you say about this?

[Borge] Reagan is making unsubstantiated accusations. In fact, the International Court in The Hague, with proof at its disposal and on an entirely just basis, has found the U.S. Administration guilty of aggressive actions against our country. "Irangate" has exposed even more forcefully the falseness of the charges against us. It has revealed a widespread international "black market" selling weapons and drugs and using U.S. military people and CIA agents for illegal actions. [paragraph continues]

The fact that people from the U.S. National Security Council are mixed up in this once again confirms the total illegality of the actions and the violation of human rights by the U.S. side. A recent example of this is the murder of U.S. citizen B. Linder by mercenaries. He was killed by criminals sponsored by the Reagan administration just because he was helping the inhabitants of a settlement in northern Nicaragua build a small hydroelectric power station. He gave his life for a noble cause. Whereas state terrorism has become a principle of imperialist foreign policy, in Nicaragua respect for human beings and loyalty to a noble duty are virtues and an integral part of the people's revolution. We will always remain true to them.

[Silantyev] For years now Washington has been claiming that the Sandinists have not kept their promise to establish democratic rule in the country in place of the Somoza dictatorship. According to the U.S. Administration, this is the cause of the conflict in Central America. What are the ideals and purpose of the Sandinist revolution?

[Borge] The aims of our revolution go back to the thirties, when Sandino stirred the people into combating U.S. intervention. Washington is demanding that we relinquish our history, but the FSLN will always honor the memory of its immortal heroes and will never betray the cause of their struggle for freedom, independence, and democracy. They are trying to impose on us the kind of "democracy" which was established in Chile and which is being defended in South Africa and Paraguay. We reject that kind of "democracy." Our democracy implies the people's involvement in all the affairs of the revolution, with the aim of creating a new society and a new person. These tasks, of course, have nothing in common with the outmoded models imperialism wants to impose on us.

The tense situation in Central America is the direct result of imperialist interference and massive social injustice in countries where regimes are maintained with the aid of injections of dollars and U.S. military advisers. Social revolutions come into being deep inside countries and there is no need to "export" them: The peoples will seek their own liberation. In fact, the export of counterrevolution, which Washington is using its soldiers and mercenaries to implement, should be denounced severely. The peoples of Nicaragua and other Central American countries are brothers; they have common ethnic roots and traditions. The U.S. social model is totally alien to us and it is rejected by the majority of the people.

FAILED CENTRAL AMERICAN SUMMIT BLAMED ON U.S.

LD172300 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1200 GMT 17 Jul 87

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The attempts by Central American states to independently resolve the region's most acute problems are meeting with active opposition from the U.S. Administration. Here is a report from our correspondent in Guatemala.

[Yuriy Baranov -- identified by caption] [Video shows Baranov in Guatemala City, further shots of city] The collapse of the summit conference by leaders of Central American states, which was planned for 25-26 June in this capital, deeply alarmed the Guatemalan public. In particular, the local press notes the unseemly role of El Salvador and Honduras, which declined at the last minute to take part in the meeting and, presumably, not without pressure from Washington.

Holding summit level talks, in the opinion of local observers, is in conflict with the Reagan administration's plans to isolate Nicaragua and expand U.S. military interference in the region. [Video shows cut to interior with Baranov seated at microphone interviewing Guatemalan President V. Cerezo Arevalo -- identified by caption -- seated in armchair; final aerial shot of Guatemala City]

[Baranov -- in Spanish with superimposed Russian translation] Why, in your opinion, did the meeting collapse? What are the prospects for a search for peace in Central America?

[Arevalo -- in Spanish with superimposed Russian translation] The concern of Salvadoran President Duarte at the unguaranteed success of the talks was the main pretext for the cancellation of the planned forum. This concern arose quite likely during Duarte's meeting with representatives of the United States and other countries in the region. However, Guatemala has not abandoned hopes of holding a regional summit-level meeting. Presently, official agreement has been received for the participation in a conference on 6-7 August by the Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega. The meeting will take place if the other presidents do not again insist on postponing it.

PRAVDA NOTES CUBAN ECONOMY DRIVE, ADJUSTMENTS

PM130907 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Jul 87 First Edition p 4

[P. Bogomolov dispatch under rubric "Following the Course of Party Congresses": "Measure of Labor and Prosperity"]

[Excerpts] Havana -- [Passage omitted] ...The third Cuban Communist Party Congress posed the most major key questions of increasing social production efficiency on a republic-wide scale. The party forum discussed especially sharply the problems of the optimum combination of material and moral incentives and the improvement of labor productivity.

It is sometimes not very easy to explain to the ordinary worker that his previous earnings were not backed up by the quantity and quality of output. There are grievances, disputes, and misunderstandings. But more and more Cubans are consciously grasping and supporting the party's course of improving the national economy and freeing it from unproductive expenditure.

The republic is learning to live economically and manage zealously and thriftily, although this also requires a difficult and often painful reappraisal of former concepts about free or very cheap access to municipal and other services.

In the country the tariffs for the use of electric power have risen, the cost of urban transport has increased, certain restrictions have been introduced in food supply, free catering in the nonproduction sphere has been stopped or limited, and television programs have become shorter. The economy measures have also affected the network of preschool education and educational institutions. The fuel issue to state motor transport has been cut and expenditure on foreign trips has been reduced.

On the one hand, these enforced steps are closely linked with objective factors which are not dependent on the republic. Above all the deterioration in external market conditions and consequently the exacerbated currency problem. The consequences of the long-standing drought and also of the destructive hurricane Kate, which affected sugarcane plantations in 7 of the country's 14 provinces, have also taken their toll.

At the same time the socioeconomic difficulties experienced by the republic can and should be lessened. A businesslike conversation about this was held, in particular, at the Fifth Cuban Union of Young Communists Congress. The lively, interested nature of its plenary sessions and the delegates' direct dialogue with Comrade F. Castro caused the event to have a particular impact and a broad resonance throughout the country.

In effect the Cuban Youth Congress was an organic continuation of the party congress. This forum also examined immediate urgent tasks along with general long-term problems of molding socialist morality and a new attitude to labor. The main task is to even out the harvesting of the sugarcane crop, which is taking place in difficult conditions complicated by torrential rain. Emergency meetings which oriented the participants in the harvest campaign toward overcoming the difficulties and finishing the season worthily were held everywhere. [passage omitted]

Yes, the Cuban workers have markedly pulled themselves together and are increasing technological discipline and reinforcing order in the national economic complex. The railroads have begun to work more rhythmically, capital construction has accelerated markedly, and ships are being serviced more quickly. And all this is without additional monetary payments to the workers.

Dubious calculations involving all kinds of "overtime payments" have been replaced by a fundamentally different acceleration factor. There is everyday scrupulous work by primary party organizations, which now lay special stress mainly on the struggle against a consumerist attitude to work. However, our Cuban friends do not think that this stress would have the same degree of topicality for all fraternal countries. But here it is deemed correct and necessary.

On the other hand what is good for socialist Cuba has never pleased its class and ideological opponents. They are not pleased at the moment. You need only listen to the subversive "voices" of the anti-Cuban radio stations. "Havana has resorted to catastrophic belt-tightening!" Radio Marti, for example, reports in panic. "People are driven to work under the whip," the right-wing emigre Cubanissima echoes.

The island of freedom's enemies are deliberately hushing up the fact that, at the same time as additional economy measures were adopted on Cuba, the pay of the lowest paid categories of working people was increased. Nor is there any mention of the fact that Cubans' deposits in savings banks are continuing to grow. State subsidies for food production have increased over the year by 9.2 percent more than planned and have reached a record total of 361.5 million pesos. You will not hear the subversive radio stations report that social consumption funds in Cuba are increasing by 3.9 percent a year.

The builders of socialist Cuba certainly do not flatter themselves on their achievements. Furthermore, the country's socioeconomic situation is serious enough for them to rest on their laurels. [sentence as published] So Cuban Communists' approach to the present problems is clearly stricter and more self-critical. There is a strengthening determination to overcome them by relying both on friends' assistance and on their on efforts.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES DISCUSSED WITH ARGENTINA

LD141230 Moscow TASS in English 1154 GMT 14 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 14 TASS -- Scheduled Soviet-Argentine political consultations have ended at the USSR Foreign Ministry today.

They covered the main international issues, including issues on the agenda of the 42nd session of the U.N. General Assembly and some aspects of bilateral cooperation. Taking part in the consultations were from the Soviet side -- USSR Deputy Foreign Ministers Leonid Ilyichev and Vladimir Petrovskiy, other senior executives of the USSR Foreign Ministry; from the Argentine side -- Jorge Sabato, secretary of state for international relations of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Religion, persons accompanying him and Argentine Ambassador to the USSR Federico Bravo.

In the course of the consultations it was stressed that its participants wish for broadening cooperation in promoting the vital issues of the present for reliably ensuring international security. Jorge Sabato was received by Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister. The Argentine representatives had meetings and talks at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade.

U.S. DELEGATION MAKES 'SURPRISE' VISIT TO PANAMA

LD162243 Moscow TASS in English 2105 GMT 16 Jul 87

[Text] San Jose July 16 TASS -- An official mission of the U.S. State Department has arrived on a surprise visit in Panama. According to news agencies, the announced aim of the visit is to study the political crisis through which Panama is going. Yet observers link the visit of U.S. official representatives with attempts of the White House at preventing the developments in Panama in a direction unwelcome to it. As a result of the antinational activities supported by the USA and local reaction, a tense situation remains in the country.

The members of the U.S. mission including William Walker, deputy assistant secretary for inter-American affairs, and Richard Wyrough, deputy director of the directorate for the Affairs of Central America and Panama [title as received] met in the first place with opposition leaders, who demand resignation of President Eric Arturo Delvalle and General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the National Defence Forces. The meeting was held behind closed doors. Yet political observers stressed that the meeting of U.S. official representatives with right-wing opposition had been a new link in the chain of anti-Panamanian intrigues by the USA. The aim of the USA is to foil the implementation of the Panamanian-American treaties on the Panama Canal, according to which it is to be placed under Panama's full control by the year 2000.

It was only after a meeting with right-wing opposition leaders that the American figures met with members of the Panamanian Government. According to a statement by Panama's Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias, the Panamanian side resolutely rejected the charges of "violating democracy" made by the United States against the Panamanian Government.

HATIAN COMMUNIST WARNS OF U.S. INTERVENTION

PM161021 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jul 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "The Threat of Aggression"]

[Text] Havana, 13 Jul -- Rene Theodore, secretary general of the United Party of Haitian Communists (PUCH), has warned about the threat of an armed U.S. intervention which is hanging over his country. In an interview to the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] Nicaraguan radio station "Radio Sandino," cited by PRENSA LATINA, he emphasized that on the pretext of searching for "missing vessels" U.S. warships have come right up to Haitian territorial waters.

Judging by appearances, Washington is seriously alarmed by the powerful protest demonstrations currently rocking Haitian cities. The demonstrators are protesting the antipeople policy of the ruling triumvirate, which is entirely towing the line of its North American bosses, and are demanding its immediate resignation. The White House should remember, R. Theodore said, that in the event of a U.S. aggression against Haiti all Haitians will rise as one man in the struggle against the interventionists.

IZVESTIYA CITES HAITI CP OFFICIAL ON CURRENT SITUATION

PM101023 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jul 87 Morning Edition pp 1, 4

[Interview with Gerard Joseph, representative of the United Party of Haitian Communists, by A. Kamorin, under the rubric "Reports From Abroad" and headlined "Haiti: Faith in the Success of Democracy and Progress" -- first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] In the last 2 weeks, Haiti has been a seething volcano of protest. The Haitians' struggle against attempts by the Henri Namphy government to wreck the democratization process in this the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere has developed on a scale that makes it the most serious political crisis since Jean-Claude Duvalier was forced to flee the country. IZVESTIYA correspondent A. Kamorin had a meeting with Gerard Joseph, a representative of the United Party of Haitian Communists, who has stopped over in Havana, and asked him to assess the events that have riveted world public attention.

[Kamorin] Comrade Joseph, what, in your view, is the significance of the latest popular demonstrations in Haiti? What could you say about the balance of political forces in the country?

[Joseph] At first glance it could seem that there is nothing fundamentally new in the present crisis. The Haitians already have experience of overthrowing their government during massive protest demonstrations. Previously, however, this did not lead to real changes. Paradoxically, as one of the first countries in the hemisphere to throw off the colonial yoke, Haiti has never really managed to achieve genuine independence. All of the people's efforts have inevitably come up against U.S. opposition, either overtly, or covertly through the Haitian Army, which was created by Washington and is under its tutelage.

The pattern has always been the same: Demonstrations by the population have automatically provoked interference by the Army, replacing the main characters on the political stage. The fact that the new rulers serve U.S. interests is the only thing to remain unchanged. In this respect, both the U.S. role and the real intentions of the military have remained in the shadows. The Haitians saw themselves faced with another bad president without knowing who was backing him.

The Duvalier clan managed to hold onto power for more than 30 years. The reason for this is simple: It is hard to imagine a regime that would suit Washington better.

Forced to remove its protege from Haiti, the United States put the Army in power -- the only real force it has in the country. But this time the military had no one to hide behind. This is the secret of the stubborn support that Washington is giving to the Namphy government. In military parlance, the last reserve has been brought into battle.

On the other hand, these popular demonstration are quite different from what they once were. People are making demands based on real life and struggling to see them met. [paragraph continues]

Perhaps for the first time in Haitian history the unity of opposition forces is developing from below.

The Provincial Electoral Council, the encroachment on whose rights served as the detonator in the current explosion of protest, has become the second political center opposed to Namphy.

[Kamorin] How do you regard the prospects for resolving this political crisis?

[Joseph] I do not think the United States will allow any truly profound changes to be made in Haitian political life. This also is indicated by Washington's latest measure to intimidate Haiti: It has stationed U.S. Navy ships just off the island's shores under the pretext of "searching for ships in distress."

The development of the protest demonstrations will most likely lead the Americans to start seeking points of contact with conservative opposition figures along the lines of the model Washington is now attempting to implement in South Korea. It is hard to predict the future. I think the government could reach a compromise with its opponents from the national bourgeoisie, but it has nothing to offer the people.

I do not rule out the possibility that the United States will consider it possible to sacrifice H. Namphy, although I am sure that the two key figures in his government -- Colonel Relaga, minister of state for the interior and national defense, and Delatour, minister of state for finance and economy -- will be kept in power by Washington at any price. The former, who was close to the Duvalier clan in the past, is expected to keep the Haitians "firmly in check," while the latter is responsible for implementing the economic policy imposed by the IMF, which is destroying Haiti's already insignificant productive forces.

[Kamorin] Can elections be held nevertheless? What stand to the Haitian communists take on this issue?

[Joseph] Elections are impossible in the atmosphere of repression and confusion in which the country is now living. They will be held sooner or later, however. When and on what terms is a more complicated question. The law on elections passed by the H. Namphy government, which has caused a universal outcry, has been formally abrogated. But does this mean that it will not be applied?

We are not nurturing vain hopes. The present events in Haiti are only the beginning of a very hard struggle. We cannot expect real democracy to be established soon or any profound socioeconomic changes to be made in the interests of our long-suffering people. But an elected parliament and the opportunity to openly express ideas would be a substantial victory. We firmly believe in the ultimate success of democracy and progress in Haiti. It is just important to ensure that every step taken in the people's political development is a step forward.

BRIEFS

MOSCOW-HAVANA AIR ROUTES -- The Moscow-Havana air route transports about 100,000 passengers a year. Currently there are 11 flights weekly. Beginning in May, the airline Cuba de Avicion began regular flights along the route Havana-Madrid-Moscow-Gander-Havana. In the near future, the Moscow-Havana air route will be transferred to joint operation by air companies of the two countries. [Summary] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Jul 87 LD]

YAKOVLEV KALUGA SPEECH ON 'CLEANSING PROCESS'

PM211221 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 21 Jul 87 p 2

[Unattributed "abbreviated account" of speech by A.N. Yakovlev, Politburo member and CPSU Central Committee secretary, at 14 July party aktiv meeting in Kaluga: "Restructuring and Morality" -- passages within slantlines published in boldface]

[Text] /The Central Committee March and April 1985 Plenums/ marked a radical breakthrough in the life of the party and the country. They marked the beginning of a fundamentally new stage of socialist development, aimed at achieving a qualitatively new state of Soviet society. They offered opportunities for the resolution of key questions of social reorganization and socialist progress along the main avenues of life. /Reason and morality, mind and conscience, and common sense gain one position after another, acting as powerful levers for revolutionary changes./

The 27th CPSU Congress consolidated the April line and elaborated a multifaceted program to accelerate the country's socioeconomic development -- a program which became fundamental for the party and all working people.

Its essence is to consistently and purposefully recognize the achievements and eliminate everything holding back the development of socialism -- everything that stemmed from difficult objective conditions or gross subjective errors, insufficient theoretical knowledge or sincere confusion, or inability or unwillingness to promptly eliminate them; to perceive the realities of life in all their complexity and contradiction and to build policy on the basis of their scientific appraisal.

Furthermore, the essence of the 27th party congress platform is to decisively turn policy and practice toward people, toward ensuring that material progress is not achieved at the expense of moral costs and spiritual losses, toward ensuring that every step and every action is checked against the high ideals of socialism.

The essence of the 27th party congress is also to perceive the acceleration of socioeconomic development as /offering new opportunities for socialism through the new opportunities offered to people./

The last two Central Committee plenums, in January and in June, set the goal of ensuring that the ideological and theoretical platform that has been elaborated is translated into the language of practical actions, thus deepening the processes of revolutionary transformations.

The Central Committee January Plenum set socialist democracy as the focus of attention as an absolute condition for further viable development. What is at issue? The fact that, insofar as socialism is being created for the people, it must also be created by the people. The fact that it is necessary to end, in a revolutionary fashion, the practice whereby some people only use power to lay down the law, while others meekly obey. Under socialism, it is impossible to tolerate a situation whereby people are kept at a distance from managing the affairs of the state, society, and the collective. Otherwise this is not socialism but something else that is alien to its principles.

In a way, the June plenum decisions complete the work of determining the practical content of restructuring and laying the organizational-political foundations of acceleration.

Restructuring has become part of our daily life, one of its inalienable parts. It has become so neither easily nor ostentatiously. It has generated not only enthusiasm and hope but also its own contradictions, which emphasize the depth of social processes and encourage people to live and work according to their conscience and to overcome passiveness and indifference. It raises quite a few awkward, unpleasant, and at times painful questions, but its prospects are a source of inspiration.

Restructuring has not been launched with full force everywhere. This is the consequence of difficulties during the transition period, the braking power of inertia and conservatism, and much else besides. Even so, however, positive results are there to be seen -- both material and moral-political. Even inveterate skeptics cannot fail to perceive that the democratic atmosphere of publicity, openness, freedom, and humaneness is being firmly established in society. This goes to implement the potential of socialist morals and to awaken an awareness of the requirement, the urgent need to appraise in a new fashion the abiding importance of the moral factor in both plans and actions.

Why is it that the need for revolutionary transformations in all spheres of society appears so acute today? Why has morality been so considerably deformed? Why have destructive petit bourgeois elements cultivated doubts as to whether it is actually possible to live honestly and to work according to conscience?

These questions do not in any way generate doubts regarding the humaneness of the socialist system. It proved its historical humaneness by the actual overthrow of the old system of injustice and exploitation. But the hard life of the trailblazers left them no time to look around and behind and precipitated a feeling of trials to come. The justified extraordinary task of achieving economic might unjustifiably bypassed the social sphere, while the hostility of the surrounding world and the extraordinary prewar conditions offered opportunities to justify political deformations in practical work, even including crimes against socialism.

The rudiments of this logic of views and practice proved tenacious of life. Time transformed them but, step by step, the dominant influence of technocracy led to the point where people were increasingly often left out as a means for attaining economic and social goals, and in practice people themselves were increasingly noticeably treated as a means while verbally remaining a goal. This process caused numerous moral deformations.

Life issued sharp and powerful reminders: Political and economic successes are historically transient. Man is eternal and his moral values are abiding. His life, his joys and concerns, his hopes and disappointments, his faith and doubts; in other words, everything that expresses the essence of human life. This is hardly the entire spectrum of preconditions for a healthy human community. Home and family. Motherland and people. Freedom and duty. Honesty, order, and justice. Love of peace, humanity, and magnanimity. Courage, loyalty, and self-sacrifice. Love, friendship, and selflessness. Nature, bread, and water. Great goals, great words, and great deeds. Labor and creativity. Intellect and talent. And so on.

/Today all work -- and I mean all work by everyone, not just parts of it -- must focus on the social-spiritual and moral qualities of society and man./ But this means that any failure of social morality is an alarming signal of miscalculations in policy, be it economic, social, or cultural policy.

There will be no success in this work if people say one thing and do something else, because this is a violation of one of the fundamental principles of morality and political honesty.

If, in order to engage in economic activity to society's utmost benefit, workers are forced to contrive, to dodge, and to resort to all sorts of "tricks" with indicators, this means that pressing economic transformations are knocking on the door, because a socialist economy cannot and does not have the right to be immoral.

If an oppressive wave of drabness, mediocrity, and ill-will toward anything that is innovative, talented, and original has been building up for years and decades in culture, art, science, journalism, teaching, and medicine, this means that socialist morality is being violated.

And /the ultimate essence of the transformations embarked on since April from the long-term viewpoint is to restore morality everywhere and in everything as an immutable norm of life and to strengthen its importance in practice./ To eradicate not just isolated instances and recurrences of hypocrisy, lies, baseness, dishonor, and such like, but to eliminate everything that engenders and encourages them as phenomena in social life.

This is why there is a logic behind the moral pressure that has developed over the last 2 years in critical statements at party and workers meetings, at village rallies, and in the mass news media. A pressure which not everyone is used to or finds to their liking and which, bluntly speaking, frightens some people with its energy and internal force. But it also produces the cleansing process which is so necessary today.

Criticisms must be assessed according to one sole criterion: Do they correspond to the actual state of affairs. Yes, many bitter things have been said in the last 2 and 1/2 years. But everything that has been said has been the truth. M.S. Gorbachev's reports to the Central Committee April (1985) and January and June (1987) Plenums and to the 27th party congress are distinguished not only by the utmost realism but also by political courage and are permeated with burning and at the same time cleansing truth. And if this truth today disturbs the usual tranquillity and spiritual ease, this is simply because for rather a long time we kept it "to ourselves," inside ourselves. There has been too large a buildup of things that should have been talked about aloud 10, 20, and even 50 years ago.

Of course, the atmosphere of democracy and openness which are being affirmed in life presupposes lofty responsibility in the individual. Experience in the last 2 years has shown that the critical review of one's own actions — from the top to the bottom — is a norm of socialist democracy. It will remain so. And now is the time to overcome the official and unofficial allergy to criticism.

Nor can there be any arguments about something else: All statements must be truthful, honest, and focused on the essence of the matter. This is another most important aspect of morality.

It can be said that our collective return to the truth occurred between April 1985 and January of this year. And now we are faced with a dual task.

/First,/ to make this state an absolute norm of life. To take for this purpose all the necessary steps in social matters, education, ideological work, and political practice — everywhere and in everything. /Second,/ not just to know and speak the truth. To ensure that living and working according to one's conscience becomes an immutable principle rather than a routine slogan.

Changes in the last few decades have been on such a scale, and their manifestations have been so interlinked, that they require unbiased analysis and the abandonment of dogmatic prejudices; they demand bold conclusions and decisions dictated by the specific historical situation.

At this stage of our development we have, so to speak, "run up against" stubborn noneconomic factors. Against the state of affairs in the social sphere -- housing, food supplies, consumer goods, services, health care, education. Against people's mood in their life and work. Against the extent to which spheres linked with the economy are developed or underdeveloped -- the social and material infrastructures. These factors no longer yield to purely technocratic solutions. Essentially, the sphere of morality has demonstrated "its own nature" -- through the decline of honest, productive, and sound work, through indifference and social apathy, through deformation of morals.

Life has issued a reminder of a sadly part-forgotten truth: All economic activity is ultimately conducted in the interests of people and their well-being rather than for any other purpose. And if such activity starts revolving around its own self, mystifying itself through the magic of figures, and forgetting its social purpose, people will repay it in kind.

The fundamental key to understanding and mastering the new thinking and the new approaches -- both in theory and in practice -- lies in the scientific perception of contradictions under socialism. This is not an abstraction of "high philosophy." There is nothing more specific or more practical than this question.

The existence of problems and the interaction of contradictions as such constitute a normal situation in life. What was abnormal was the fact that, over a long period of time, problems accumulated faster than they were being solved. This is what makes it necessary now to raise solid barriers against the self-deception that trends to apply brakes, and to undertake the most drastic measures ensuring that the obstructions that have formed are demolished within a limited period of time, that the burden which is dragging us down and making us pay for what was left undone yesterday and the day before yesterday is cast off. This, in fact, is the essence of acceleration -- its practical aspect, if you like.

Many people are now eagerly talking about democracy, openness, and restructuring as a whole but are doing very little in practice for the triumph of these principles. Formerly, the divergence of words and acts provided a breeding ground for cynicism, but now it engenders sociopolitical mimicry. This mimicry somehow resembles the petit bourgeois attitude which is totally revolutionary until the revolution but slides into panic and despondency when the revolution is accomplished. Such mimicry and any divergence between the philosophy and the practice of restructuring represent a serious braking factor whose elimination demands measures on the development of theory and on everything linked with the translation of theory into the language of life, the testing of theory by life, and the elimination of scholasticism from theory.

It is necessary to seriously and fundamentally launch the theoretical front of restructuring. And this -- the liquidation of dogmatic sectarianism -- requires primarily training in the practice of discussions. Both scientific and social.

Since April, the party has set the task of overcoming everything outdated, stagnant, and conservative. What is the supreme meaning of this task? It is not simply to replace everything that is unsuitable today with something new, and to lapse into complacency later. There have been similar examples in the past. One group of people has been replaced by another, and at all levels at that. Meanwhile, the cause marked time and stagnation took hold and deepened.

So we must struggle against the phenomenon and the causes which bring it about. One of the most powerful means is self-regulation through human morality.

We are justified in criticizing the expenditure mechanism which prevailed in the last few decades. We criticize its orientation toward extensive forms of development and its inefficiency. But something else must also be perceived. The expenditure mechanism engenders exaggerated reporting, window dressing, ostentation, and corruption insofar as it creates sufficiently broad opportunities for such illegal and immoral actions while remaining aloof from encouraging honest work and honest behavior.

The expenditure mechanism is also immoral because it prevents the revelation of the underlying potential of people, the collective, and society. It thus rejects qualitative advance; it rejects development. These are not assumptions or guesses -- we do know that this really happened in life.

How is a worker, kolkhoz member, or engineer to be taught a thrifty and solicitous attitude toward work if entire regions are being ecologically destroyed before his very eyes? The timeserver's mentality is incompatible with genuine socialism. This mentality is engendered not so much by defects in an individual's personality but by the given conditions of economic activity. But conscience, morality, responsibility, and their self-regulating qualities could play a much greater role here.

Perhaps one of the most immediate tasks is to cultivate man's sense of his own dignity. This is a great feeling, if we seriously think about it. It is inseparable from the idea of conscience. It can replace any number of controllers. To work not through fear but through conscience, not because someone will inspect the work or the wages might be affected, but because your own self-respect does not allow you to work otherwise. Not to be rude, not to be coarse either at work or in your free time not because someone might punish you but because such behavior is incompatible with your own self-respect.

Morals and morality have been used for centuries ad millennia to justify the status quo, to protect the interests of dominant classes, to prevent an awareness by the oppressed and the exploited, and to give them psychological consolation. In words -- calls for honesty and justice, appeals to man's better and brighter nature. In practice -- a real society which, by its very nature, is incapable of implementing the proclaimed principles of human communal life.

Great October was also conceived as a moral revolution of protest against the blatant injustices of the old world, as a passionate desire to make life and the social system worthy of man and capable of unshackling rather than muffling the voice of his conscience. The entire path traveled by socialism since then is a path of victories and achievements whose importance is not only material, political, or social, but also moral.

This is why the question of harmony between sociopolitical and economic practice and the moral ideals of socialism is a specific issue not only in historical terms but also regarding all daily affairs. Essentially, this is a question of loyalty to the sources and primordial nature of socialism, and thus to its future. Loyalty in deed, at every step, in every action -- this is what goes to make up the history of the new civilization.

This is why the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum course must be perceived not only from the viewpoint of solving the fundamental problems of the country's economic management, but also from a position of realizing and practically turning to face the urgent questions of people's daily lives -- like individual freedom, social security, housing, food supplies, and the goods and services they need. Genuine morality and the desire for a spiritually rich life and self-realization develop much more efficiently if they are based on a stable and sufficiently high level of satisfying people's daily needs as a condition for a fitting life.

This is the moral essence of the turn accomplished by the Central Committee March (1985) Plenum. There can be no revolutionary transformations without profound moral advances and their consolidation in the very foundations and daily life of society and every individual. This is indeed the meaning and essence of the socialist revolutionary nature of restructuring.

Quite a few of the problems linked with the moral atmosphere in society also developed in the cultural sphere. The intensification of bureaucratic methods of management produced particularly strong negative results. An effect was also produced because the prevailing divergence of words and actions exerted a particularly pernicious influence.

The administrative braking mechanism led to serious shortcomings within culture itself. Personal prejudice, unthinking bans, and manifestations of cliquishness started to give Soviet people a certain distrust of anything offered in the form of spiritual sustenance. Print runs of newspapers and magazines fell. Audiences no longer went to the theater — this was covered up by the enforced distribution of tickets and subsidies. They did not go to the movies — this was covered up by machinations in reports. Many artistically mediocre or morally false works received high awards.

Nobody can deny our achievements. Good quality, profound books and interesting movies and shows appeared. But they were notably overshadowed by all kinds of imitations and potboilers. The way was thereby cleared for incursions by "mass culture."

It has been said many times, but I will say it again: We advocate the broadest exchanges of genuine spiritual assets with all peoples. Our position here is clear. But it is also clear in another area. Anything that plays on the dark instincts rather than on a consciousness enriched by thousands of years of civilization, or anything that is built on ideological violence or arrogant disregard for individuals and life itself cannot by its very nature be art. Tolerating such "mass production" and its demoralizing impact is impermissible for the sake of people and their future. /But we must combat such mass production with the quality of our own works in all genres./

There have been improvements in this area. But the opportunities opened up by restructuring are still being used unsatisfactorily. The struggle of ideas and creative quests are sometimes replaced by struggles among people and their self-esteem. The desire for a kind of group revenge sometimes overshadows everything else. The whipping up of "panic-stricken terror" with regard to the unusual processes taking place in the spiritual sphere does not attest to proper social responsibility. There are still many cultural figures who maintain a telling silence about social transformations and waste their effort seeking mistakes, both actual and imagined, by those who have sincerely and publicly defined their position in our crucial time.

The resolution of morally analogous questions in the science area — particularly the social sciences — and in the educational area are currently on the agenda. The root of the existing negative phenomena lies in the fact that science is impermissibly far removed from the accomplishment of practical tasks. The gulf between science and practice creates an opportunity to waste efforts on infighting rather than business, gives rise to monopolies in groups and avenues, and maintains the vitality of scholasticism and dogmatism.

Instead of free discussions interested in reaching the truth, defamation, pigeonholing, and appeals to higher authorities and law enforcement organs for "measures to be taken" against scientific opponents are still common currency. [paragraph continues]

All this is a legacy of the past which gives rise to nothing but stagnation and is aimed at undermining everyone who is talented and competent. Party organizations at all levels must openly and democratically wage a most resolute and unrelenting struggle against such phenomena.

The complex questions of attitudes toward historical, cultural, national, and natural legacies now occupy a special place at the junction of culture, science, and ethics. We should not oversimplify matters — these questions did not emerge artificially in a vacuum, but on the basis of recent and long-standing errors and because real problems were not only not solved but very often were swept under the carpet, thereby becoming even more acute. They emerged because often society's justifiable concern met not with a committed reaction but with administrative resentment, injured pride, and a desire to impose bans and "lock things up and throw away the key."

Today we must tackle the essence of matters rather than swamping them in endless perorations; we must learn to see public opinion not as a tiresome opponent but as a vigorous and honest assistant.

Since ancient times our country has been a multinational state. It grew up with difficulty and at times tragically. From a colonial empire it traveled a genuinely historic road toward a unique union of sovereign nations and ethnic groups, proud of their socialist primogeniture and freely developing their national culture and identity.

Many truths and pages of past experience have been bought at a very, very great cost. This makes it all the more immoral and dangerous when some of these truths begin to be forgotten or elbowed aside; it is even worse if they become a subject for various types of moral and political speculation.

Internationalism is the central tenet of Marxist-Leninist teaching and socialism's moral asset. Internationalism in our country is a norm of life and the foundation of our policy. There are no objective justifiable motives for unhealthy mutual relations, nationalism, chauvinism, Zionism, or anti-Semitism in relations among our nations and ethic groups.

But ignoring certain manifestations of extremism would be a mistake. What engenders these "throwbacks"?

On the one hand, shortcomings in social and cadre policy, particularly at the local level, which are not rectified over the years. Another cause lies in various group or clan aspirations and ambitions that emerge on the basis of parasitism or the whipping up of national exclusivity, and in attempts to "flirt" with religious prejudices, to embellish the feudal or bourgeois past, to depict acute class contradictions as exaggerated, or to reconcile the democratic and the reactionary, progress and obscurantism in the presocialist history of certain peoples, thereby calling into question the objective laws of social revolution. V.I. Lenin repeatedly stressed the need to make every effort to "rebuff all nationalism — both the crude, violent, black hundred variety, and the most sophisticated variety". (Vol 25, p 144).

But extremes are particularly dangerous in the struggle against extremes. And sometimes we are nudged toward extremes, and quite deliberately. This must be seen and understood. Things are depicted as if the party's cultural policy — both in the past and now — were aimed at contrasting the country's presocialist and socialist history and undermining folk traditions.

What conclusion can objectively be drawn from this comparison? It is quite obvious: It is as if the safeguarding and introduction of the people's national values and spiritual values in general were achieved irrespective of and even in spite of the party. And the socialist approach to the problem is depicted as nihilistic.

The problem of historical memory requires unprejudiced understanding. The party and the state together with society are the proponents of maintaining genuine historical and cultural values. If one looks at the facts there is no doubt about it.

Moreover, it is essential to realize that it is not only this generation which is the guardian and judge of the historical and cultural past — as it is of the present, incidentally. The past also belongs to other generations, before and after us. History will have the last word. That is why we must preserve and take into the future everything valuable that we have received from the past and from our present, and we must pass it on in a genuine and undistorted form. This is vital for the sake of the moral health and spiritual strength of communist civilization.

Incidentally, the idea that in prerevolutionary Russia the authorities were concerned about maintaining historical monuments is a myth. Nothing of the sort was the case — as the facts show.

In tsarist times there were many cases of highly important architectural monuments being razed in the name of civic construction. The famous (16th century) White City in Moscow, where the Bulvarnoye koltso was built, was knocked down in the late 18th and early 19th century. The famous church of John the Baptist in the Forest (13th century) on the Kremlin grounds was knocked down during the building of the Ton Palace. Sretenskiy Cathedral, the Gerbovaya Tower, the churches of the Trinity and the Epiphany, and other monuments were knocked down in the same area at the start of the 19th century. The Spaso-Preobrazhenskiy Alekseyevskiy Monastery (16th century), on the site of which the Church of Christ the Savior was built, was knocked down in the 19th century on the orders of the tsar and the Synod. The Nikolay Gostunskiy Church (16th century) in the Moscow Kremlin was knocked down merely because the site was "needed" to build a parade ground for drilling soldiers.

In certain ancient Russian cities monuments of ancient architecture suffered in the late 18th century during the implementation of Catherine's "regular" rebuilding program. Highly valuable monuments in the cities of Kolomna, Dmitrov, Poltava, and Bronnitsy were destroyed as a result of mass demolition. Many monuments of the wooden architecture of the North were destroyed in the 18th and 19th centuries.

These facts are cited not to vindicate latter-day administrative zealots or people who have lost their sense of responsibility but to show the contemptibility of the claims that the regimes of tsars and khans, noblemen and beys were concerned with preserving the material memory of the past.

History undistorted puts many things in their proper place. The excesses of present-day zealot administrators, just like the frequent indifference to the monuments of the past, be it in the thirties or the seventies, do not nullify the undisputed fact that since the early years of Soviet power the party has pursued and continues to pursue the line of preserving, reviving, and making broad cultural use of the valuable assets of the past.

In a country devastated by fascist invasion in which the people's material situation was desperate, the restoration of the architectural and artistic masterpieces ruined by the Hitlerites in Leningrad, Pushkino, Pavlovsk, Novgorod, Pskov, and Kiev began and was successfully completed. [paragraph continues]

The ancient architectural jewels of our Central Asian republics and the Transcaucasus were restored to their former glory. The most valuable collection of old manuscripts and early printed books was established at Matenadaran in Yerevan.

It goes without saying that the work ahead is considerable, but it is under way. Historical and cultural monuments must be vigorously restored. But it must also be borne in mind that this deeply moral and responsible work has nothing to do with the romanticization of an historically and culturally reactionary past. Socialism's origins are rooted in love of freedom, freedom of thought, and progress. At a meeting with leaders of the mass media and creative unions recently, M.S. Gorbachev expressed this idea graphically: "We are all descendants of October..."

Party workers must be able to master such problems well. Otherwise we shall lay behind events rather than direct them, we shall be the victims of casual and random moods rather than directing the situations that emerge.

The key element of all restructuring is the democratization of life and work. A multitude of tasks are accomplished here at the same time. For us today democratization is also a means of shaping the new consciousness. We must eliminate the unhealthy discrepancies whose consequences are still being felt today: the discrepancy between word and act, between reality and proclaimed policy. Discrepancies which, having taken root in people's minds, have eaten at the soul like a canker and spawned mistrust, cynicism, and passivity.

The development of democracy removes these and other artificial contradictions. Actual participation in democratic procedures at all levels is a powerful incentive to the development of the individual and of all society.

The demand to take into account the dialectical interconnection between the two spheres — the economic and the sociopolitical — has gained special significance since the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum. Without commitment and without the practical reinforcement of the idea that democracy is an effective means of solving many social problems, the necessary social activeness cannot be achieved.

Morality and democracy are indivisible. The Central Committee January Plenum said, using M.S. Gorbachev's words, that "only the person who feels that he is master of his own house can put it in order." No progress can be made here without democracy. But let us ask ourselves: Are we ready at all levels to heed one another's opinion, to seriously analyze another viewpoint different from our own, and to take it into account? I emphasize in particular — at all levels! The psychological aspects of democratization now require particularly close attention. We overthrew the tsar, but how many different "little tsars" there are inhabiting people's souls today! And such people only need to rise a little above the others for those "little tsars" to make their presence felt.

We often say that it is necessary to "study democracy." Those words are rich in content and set forward extensive and varied tasks. Foster a profound democratic culture, develop public consciousness and thinking, broaden the range of information and analysis, and make a conscious choice between the different viewpoints and alternatives — a choice based on concern for the welfare of society and common prospects — and you have the present-day manifestation of communists' militancy and the practical affirmation of the party's leading and directing role in society's life.

One area in which unity of word and act is realized is criticism. The position here is clear, and it must be unswervingly implemented. Any suppression of criticism or defamation of those who make it is incompatible with the interests of the party, socialism, and the people.

Reactionary forces in the West are now directly trying to provoke us into curtailing openness and the process of democratization. They are pursuing the aim of setting us back and retarding the transformations that have now begun because they realize that without democracy and openness these transformations cannot be accomplished.

Sometimes in our country, too, people say that it would do no harm to set some kind of limits on openness. Clearly, when people begin to speak of such limits it means that openness is hampering some people. But this is the very purpose of openness and of democracy: To prevent people from living outside morality and the law and to refer to public judgement those who ignore the collective's interests and give their own personal considerations priority over everything. Democracy is based by its very nature on the interests of the people and society. It can and must be based only on the principles of freedom and the law and on high culture in human relations. These humanist and moral values of socialism must be strengthened and developed in every possible way.

In other words, /morality acquires a political significance today./ It has a direct influence not only on the pace but also -- and most importantly -- on the character of our movement and the prospect of attaining the set goals.

Now, when new principles of economic management are just beginning to be implemented, there is a particularly acute need for the party to give practical support to those who were first to embark on the road of restructuring and who are achieving tangible results here. Support for pioneers is a task which is still of tremendous moral significance, which makes it possible to overcome and destroy the deeply entrenched psychology of wage-leveling, parasitism, consumerism, and the psychology of alienation and indifference.

Soviet people can only carry out restructuring together. But this word "together" presupposes a substantial raising of mutual exactingness for the sake of the common good and ultimately the personal prosperity of each individual.

History has set a fundamentally new task: to learn how to make the best and fullest use of socialism's material, spiritual, and social potential. The end results here will provide a measure of /the social effectiveness of society/ and of everything that we have created, a measure for us ourselves and for the whole world.

An example of moral cleansing and of spiritual uplifting of unprecedented force has been demonstrated in the historically short period since April 1985. It is necessary to ensure that the results of this process are not eroded by hasty or routine working, indifference or selfishness, and that the moral renewal and improvement of socialism serve mankind and proceed steadily and unwaveringly.

/Soviet society has all the necessary preconditions to ensure life and work in full accord with the norms of socialist morality not in disharmony with them./ This is the link between the material and the spiritual and between man and society. This determines the individual's attitude toward the collective, other people, himself, and the state. This is the ultimate basis of the attitude toward work and behavior within the family. This is the solution to those very questions which cause most concern today -- questions on which our future depends.

GROMYKO ADDRESSES AWARD RECIPIENTS IN KREMLIN

PM171225 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jul 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Awards for Heroes of Labor"]

[Text] A.A. Gromyko, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman, presented high state awards to a group in the Kremlin 15 July. Orders of Lenin and second "Hammer and Sickle" gold medals were awarded to V.L. Bedulya, chairman of the "Sovetskaya Belorussiya" Kolkhoz in Brest Oblast's Kamenetskiy Rayon, Belorussian SSR, and to E.A. Liyeberg, chairman of the "9 May" Kolkhoz in the Estonia SSR; and Orders of Lenin and "Hammer and Sickle" gold medals were awarded to I.O. Gorbachev, chief producer at the A.S. Pushkin State Academic Drama Theater in Leningrad, and Ye. A. Lebedev, artiste at the M. Gorkiy Academic Bolshoy Drama Theater in Leningrad.

In his speech at the award presentation A.A. Gromyko said:

It is remarkable that you are receiving these high awards today. Among you is twice Hero of Socialist Labor Vladimir Leontyevich Bedulya. For more than 30 years he has worked as a kolkhoz chairman in Belorussia's Brest Oblast. Twice Hero of Socialist Labor Endel Augustovich Liyeberg has worked for more than 30 years as a kolkhoz chairman in the Estonian republic. Here too are Hero of Socialist Labor Igor Olegovich Gorbachev, a people's artiste of the USSR, and Hero of Socialist Labor Yevgeniy Alekseyevich Lebedev, also a people's artiste of the USSR.

What a foursome! The thought springs to mind: Was this foursome specially chosen for today's award presentation -- two comrades representing the sphere of material production and two comrades, the spsiritual sphere? I can assure you that nobody made such a selection beforehand. It turned out this way, and magnificently at that.

To turn to Comrades Bedulya and Liyeberg, they are already famed for their good work -- one in Belorussia and the other in Estonia -- and 16 years ago became Heroes of Socialist Labor. There is no need to speak at length about the importance of their activity. Our country and its leading force -- the party -- have a stake in ensuring that the people are supplied in full with various foodstuffs. The people are entitled to that.

The entire Soviet people are busy fulfilling the majestic restructuring program set forth in M.S. Gorbachev's report at the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum, in the plenum decisions, and in the laws and resolutions adopted at the recent USSR Supreme Soviet session.

I think I would not be wrong in saying that you, comrade kolkhoz chairmen, have enough reserves of energy to successfully fulfill the specific tasks on which you are working.

Igor Olegovich Gorbachev and Yevgeniy Alekseyevich Lebedev are both from Leningrad. They are from the city that was the cradle of the Great October Socialist Revolution, whose 70th anniversary we are approaching. Soviet audiences are well acquainted with these figures in the art world, not only through the theater but through movies and television too.

And I also remember with pleasure the strong and, I would say, impassioned speech which you, Igor Olegovich, delivered at the 27th CPSU Congress. All the delegates spontaneously applauded you.

Now, in awarding you the title of Hero of Socialist Labor, the motherland is assessing on their merits the services of a unique actor and talented producer, his fundamentally civic-minded stance, and his immense work.

Our audiences are also well acquainted with the creativity of Yevgeniy Alekseyevich. Whatever roles he plays -- be they on the stage or in the movies, drawn from the modern repertoire or in fairy tale movies for children -- Soviet people know that if they see this actor's name on the billing they will always encounter an original and sparkling talent.

Marx wrote the golden words: "...bees building their honeycombs are like certain human architects. But even the worst architect differs from the best bee from the outset in that before building a honeycomb he has already built it in his head." That is profound Marxist thinking.

Our culture and, in particular, our art must strive to direct rays of light toward the future in order to illuminate it as far as possible, guided by Marxist-Leninist science.

I think that both today's heroes representing the cultural sphere here meet this demand. They are foward-looking by the nature of their creativity.

Permit me, dear comrades, on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government to congratulate you all on receiving these high state awards.

Best wishes to the collectives in which you work, and to your relatives and friends.

The award recipients warmly thanked the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government for the high assessment of their work.

BIRYUKOVA NOTES PROBLEMS IN CONSUMER GOODS, SERVICES

AU210818 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 18 Jul 87 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Aleksandra Biryukova, CPSU Central Committee secretary, by Doyko Vutov "this week" -- place not given]

[Text] A CPSU Central Committee delegation, headed by Aleksandra Biryukova, CPSU Central Committee secretary, paid a working visit to our country at the invitation of the BCP Committee. The delegation leader was kind enough to grant an interview to a representative of our paper.

[Votov] The 27th CPSU Congress and the subsequent Central Committee plenums adopted wide-ranging decisions aimed at achieving qualitative changes in the production of consumer goods, in the development of trade and services for the population. We would like, esteemed Aleksandra Pavlovna, to learn from you how the decisions are being implemented.

[Biryukova] The ever increasing satisfaction of the Soviet people's needs in the sector of consumer goods and services is a task of crucial importance in the active social policy mapped out by our 27th CPSU Congress.

Within the last three 5-year plan periods, consumer goods production and retail turnover doubled, while the volume of consumer services for the population increased more than three times. Nevertheless, these results do not satisfy us either regarding quantity or regarding the quality of consumer goods and services. They do not match the increasing needs of the Soviet people. The delay in our economic development during the seventies had a negative impact on the supply of goods and services for the domestic market. Insufficient resources were provided for the development of the social sphere and the "B" group branches. That is why we came across negative phenomena such as the slowdown in the rate of increase in the people's prosperity, the imbalance between the people's personal earnings and the goods that were available, and the deterioration in the role played by ruble incomes as an incentive for a productive and high quality labor performance.

In ascertaining the gravity of the situation, the party adopted a resolute trend toward a radical and total restructuring of all our activities in developing the production of consumer goods, as well as in the services sphere. I will just point out the major initiatives in this respect:

— A comprehensive program was adopted for the development of consumer goods production and services, encompassing all economic branches on which the increase in consumer goods and services and the improvement in the quality and variety of them depend;

— compared with the previous 5-year plan periods, the social character of the 12th 5-Year Plan has been considerably intensified. The production of consumer goods must increase by 33 percent, while the goods connected with the cultural and consumer sphere must increase by 50 percent;

— light industry, trade, and public services are fully subjected to the cost accounting and self-financing system.

— compared with the previous 5-year plan period, capital investments in the light industry sector increased by 25 percent;

— A USSR Council of Ministers Bureau for Social Development has been established to improve the management of the whole social-cultural sphere and the production of consumer goods. This is the first time that the annual and 5-year plans have contained a special section on producing and marketing consumer goods and developing services. All this is having a certain effect. In 1986 R1.4 billion worth of nonfoodstuffs was produced. The rate of increase in services was twice as high as the average during the previous 5-year plan period. The population's consumption rate increased by 5.5 percent as a whole, as against an average annual rate of 3.7 percent during the previous 5-year plan period.

Despite this fact, the production of nonfood commodities in 1986 and during the first 6 months of 1987 did not attain the indices of the 5-year plan. The CPSU Central Committee Politburo discussed the implementation of the comprehensive program and described the results as unsatisfactory. In May 1987 the CPSU Central Committee held a meeting on the development of consumer goods production and services. Specific measures for improving the situation were mapped out.

[Vutov] How would you describe the basic reasons for the slowness of restructuring in the activities connected with satisfying the people's needs for consumer goods and services?

[Biryukova] The reasons for this phenomenon were profoundly analyzed in the documents adoptd by our party since the 1985 April Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. [paragraph continues]

The main reason, in our view, is that numerous party, state, and economic organs on a central and local level have not drawn the practical conclusions from the party instructions on the need to radically change the approach to the social sphere, that is, regarding the supply of the markets with the necessary goods and services.

What about the result of this approach? Even today, 20 percent of enterprises do not produce any consumer goods, despite the fact that the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers obligate all enterprises, without exception, to produce such goods. The quality of goods is not improving quickly enough and the same applies to the innovation of varieties, technical standards, and consideration of consumers' tastes, as well as to the aesthetic appearance of products.

Another reason is the insufficient activity of local government organs in this respect. Restructuring in economic management and the development of the self-management system expands the rights and increases the responsibilities of local party and Soviet organs in the republics, krays, and oblasts. This applies to all questions of economic and social life at the local level as well, including the supply of goods and services for the population. Nevertheless, in practice the inability to take advantage of the rights granted to the local organs is becoming evident. Instead of coping independently with their tasks, the comrades often prefer to apply to the government and other superior organs with requests for additional goods, funds, and material resources.

[Vutov] Under these circumstances the new economic mechanism that is operating in the light industry sector this year should be better utilized. Could you describe its basic feature, and evaluate the initial results of its application?

[Biryukova] The essence of the new mechanism in light industry can be reduced to complete economic cost accounting and self-financing enterprises. The rights of the workers collectives in dealing with basic questions of their own production and financial activities have been expanded.

The main feature of the new planning system for consumer goods lies in the fact that the production tasks are based on the orders of the businessmen signing wholesale contracts. Precisely these orders constitute the production and assortment of the enterprises. This is how the foundations are being laid for the elimination of the diktat of the producer over the consumer. This diktat is frequently reflected by the fact that under the old system the producer was interested in fulfilling the plan according to its volume, without caring about the consumers' needs, without asking whether the goods in question are in demand.

This brief description shows that we are talking about a transition to economic methods of management within the branch, and about creating the necessary basis for an intensification of democracy and self-management. These measures, as a whole, are in accordance with the trend followed by the 13th BCP Congress regarding the development of self-management in Bulgarian economic life.

It is only 6 months since the innovation was introduced. We can feel, however, the striving of numerous enterprises to show more initiative, to adapt better to the needs of various strata of the population, and to make better use of the opportunities offered by the new economic mechanism. Naturally, there are problems as well. Some of these problems are that enterprises are unable to obtain the profits envisaged by plan. There are several reasons for this, but there are three main ones that I would like to mention:

— Numerous enterprises are obliged to pay considerable fines for poor quality production and for violating contractual obligations;

— Not all economic managers have learned to draw up their accounts, to think in economic categories, such as profits, prices, credits, and finances, to distinguish between profits and losses, or how to avoid losses;

— Competition, namely economic competition among light industry enterprises in better satisfying the population's needs for consumer goods is still insufficiently developed. This, however, is a very important factor in activating the motive forces of socialism in connection with supplying the market with high quality goods and eliminating the monopoly of individual producer organizations.

[Vutov] Are you already feeling the effect of the decree on cooperative and individual forms of labor activities in the social sphere?

[Biryukova] The practical work on the development of these forms is in the initial stages. However, their usefulness is already beyond doubt wherever they are in operation. The population approves this initiative. In the RSFSR, for example, more than 1,200 cooperatives have been established in the sector of consumer goods production, public catering, and consumer services. We expect that more than 3,000 such enterprises will be established by the end of the year. Things are developing well also in Estonia and Uzbekistan in this respect.

Nevertheless, in certain places the local government organs are adopting a passive attitude of expectation. The initiatives of the citizens often come up against the barriers of bureaucracy, indifference, and the unwillingness of the local soviets and enterprises to burden themselves with new concerns. Our line of policy in this respect is unmistakable: Cooperative and individual forms of labor activities are an essential addition to the state system of satisfying the Soviet people's needs for goods and services. In this manner all unfounded restrictions must be eliminated.

I would like to wish the Bulgarian Communists and all working people in the People's Republic of Bulgaria success in implementing the decisions of the 13th BCP Congress, so that they may implement everything that has been mapped out in the social and cultural sectors.

SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDIUM DECREE ON GRISHIN

PM171209 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Jul 87 p 3

[USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree "On the Early Termination of the Powers of V.V. Grishin, Deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Soviet of the Union"]

[Text] In connection with Comrade V.V. Grishin's personal application to be relieved of his powers as deputy, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decrees:

That on the basis of Article 10 of the USSR law "On the Status of People's Deputies in the USSR" the powers of Viktor Vasilyevich Grishin, Soviet of the Union deputy for Moscow City's No 17 Perovskiy electroal okrug, be deemed terminated ahead of schedule.

A. Gromyko, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman,
T. Menteshashvili, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium secretary
Moscow, Kremlin, 14 July 1987

CSA REPORTS ON JANUARY-JUNE 1987 PLAN FULFILLMENT

PM200801 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jul 87 Second Edition pp 1, 2, 3

[USSR Central Statistical Administration report: "To Successfully Meet the Jubilee Year Targets. On the Results of the Fulfillment of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in the First 6 Months of 1987" -- passages within slantlines printed in boldface; Editorial Notes preceding tabulated sections define editorially-supplied alphabetic symbols at head of columns]

[Text] The country's working people, in fulfillment of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum decisions, are joining increasingly actively in the process of restructuring.

As a result of the implementation of additional measures and the expansion of the application of advanced forms of economic management and of labor organization and incentives, there was success in general in making up the lag that was allowed to build up at the start of the year, in raising the intensity of work, and in ensuring further growth of social production and of the Soviet people's living standards in the 6 months as a whole. During the first 6 months of 1987, industry achieved the production growth rates envisaged in plan calculations for this period.

Compared with the first 6 months of 1986, social labor productivity increased 2.3 percent, with a 3.5 percent increase during the second quarter, and national income produced increased 2.4 and 3.6 percent respectively.

The entire increase in industrial output (R14 billion) was achieved on the basis of higher labor productivity.

The value of fixed capital commissioned and financed through state capital investments was R2.8 billion greater than in the first 6 months of last year.

The growth of the people's prosperity continued. The average monthly wage of workers and employees increased 2.8 percent, the remuneration of kolkhoz members' labor increased 4 percent, and payments and benefits to the population from social consumption funds increased by R3.9 billion. Measures are being implemented to further consolidate the social sphere's material and technical base. The area of housing built was 5.1 million square meters more.

But restructuring is only just beginning to unfold in many sectors of the national economy, and the lag allowed to build up in the work of several sectors at the start of the year was being made up only slowly, especially in machine building, railroad transport, and the construction industry. The problem of satisfying the population's growing demand for goods and services remains acute. The retail trade turnover plan was not fulfilled. Foreign trade turnover was reduced 4 percent. The planned pace of national income growth was not achieved.

I. Intensification of Social Production [section subhead]

/Scientific and technical progress./ The renewal of the national economy's production apparatus was implemented on the basis of reconstruction and retooling. A total of R16.5 billion in state capital investments was used for this purpose during the first 6 months, which was 10 percent more than in the corresponding period last year. R9.3 billion of this sum was provided by resources from enterprise and organization funds.

Machine building played a decisive role in the renewal of operating fixed production capital. In many machine building ministries, however, the scale of output renewal was substantially smaller than planned for 1987.

Output assimilated in the USSR for the first time as proportion of commodity output volume (in percentages)

	1987 Plan	Actual in the 1st 6 months of 1987
Total for the machine building complex	7.6	4.3
USSR Ministry of:		
Power Machine Building	14.0	11.3
Heavy and Transport Machine Building	11.5	11.0
Electrical Equipment Industry	8.5	4.5
Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building	14.4	9.0
Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry	7.0	6.2
Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems	6.8	3.6
Automotive Industry	6.0	2.4
Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building	5.6	1.8
Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production	6.8	9.4
Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building	5.0	0.5
Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances	5.0	1.5

The first 6 months of 1987 saw the assimilation of production and start of manufacture of 1,500 new types of industrial output. They include minicomputers and lifting-transportation and welding equipment.

Work continued on the development and organization of manufacture of new means for the automation of production in line with the Comprehensive Program for CEMA Countries' Scientific and Technical Progress Through the Year 2000. The manufacture of flexible production modules and processing centers for casing components of various sizes, and of industrial robots for use with metal cutting equipment was organized.

The proportion of output meeting world technical standards in the total production of the most important types of manufactured output was in excess of 40 percent. Machine building ministries ensured a 79 percent fulfillment of the plan for the assimilation of the production of new generation equipment. A lag was allowed to build up by the USSR Ministries of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry, Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building, Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building, and Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances.

The first practical results were obtained from the activity of intersectoral scientific and technical complexes for the retooling of the national economy's sectors. Prototypes of highly productive rotary lines for the milling of casing components and the heat treatment of shaft products, an automatic rotary-conveyor line for the casting of plastic products, and technological equipment for pipe rolling components capable of producing 300,000 tonnes of compressor pipes a year were developed.

There was improvement in a number of important indicators of scientific and technical progress in sectorial complexes. Industry fulfilled the plan for well-drilling from floating platforms, the production of phosphate fertilizers, thinner-gauge newsprint, and cement from clinker produced using energy-saving technologies, and the introduction of laser, plasma, and electronic beam installations and automated planning systems.

But the scale of the application of base technologies is expanding only slowly. The technologies in question include coal extraction at mines using mechanized equipment complexes and the extra-furnace vacuum processing of steel. Oxygen-converter steel represented 36.4 percent of total steel manufacture; the proportion of cast billets produced by continuous casting machines was 16.8 percent. The plan for the production of casing and pump-compressor pipes using thermomechanical processing was not fulfilled.

Kolkhozes and sovkhozes have planted 35.3 million hectares to grain and pulse crops for the 1987 harvest to be cultivated using intensive technologies, including 13 million hectares to winter crops, 12.2 million hectares to spring wheat, 4 million hectares to grain corn, 761,000 hectares to pulses, 983,000 hectares to millet, 427,000 hectares to buckwheat, 22,000 hectares to rice, and 3.4 million hectares to other crops. Intensive technologies are used to cultivate sunflower on 2.2 million hectares and sugar beet (industrial) on 2.8 million hectares.

There was an increase in the manufacture of a number of advanced and economical materials and articles making it possible to reduce labor-intensiveness and prime costs in the construction work.

The average gross capacity of freight trains in railroad transport remained at 3,093 tonnes, which was the level achieved during the first 6 months of last year. Targets in terms of this indicator were met 98.6 percent. The scheduled [tekhnicheskaya] speed of freight trains, at 43.4 km per hour, was 1.8 percent lower than in the corresponding period of last year.

/Output quality./ There was greater demandingness as regards output quality. The average monthly rejection of output by state acceptance, which was introduced at 1,500 enterprises, was R90 million, representing 0.8 percent of the output submitted for acceptance. Output worth a total of about R40 million was totally rejected during the first 6 months.

/Utilization of production potential./ Due attention is not being given to the prompt assimilation of capacities. An inspection at 433 projects which were commissioned or reconstructed in 1986-1987 revealed that a lag in the assimilation of capacities had been allowed to occur at 259 of them in January-May of this year. The average utilization of capacities was 82 percent. This indicator was lower still at enterprises in the machine building complex with 77 percent, the chemical industry and timber complex with 66 percent, and the construction industry complex with 57 percent.

Capacities commissioned in December 1986 at the "Andizhankabel" Plant under the USSR Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry did not produce wiring cables, nor was oil field, drilling, and geological prospecting equipment produced by the Ocher machine building plant (Perm Oblast) under the USSR Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building.

As a result of the lag that was allowed to build up in the assimilation and utilization of capacities, the shortfall of output at th_ projects which were inspected amounted to R500 million.

/Savings of material resources./ Savings amounted to about 7 million tonnes of standard fuel, 0.9 million tonnes of rolled ferrous metals, more than 1 million tonnes of cement, and about 3 million cubic meters of lumber; 70 million gigacalories of secondary fuel energy resources were utilized.

The USSR Ministries of Heavy and Transport Machine Building, Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production, Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry, and several others failed to cope with their set targets for savings of fuel and energy resources.

The economic circulation of secondary resources expanded. As of 1 June, there were 201 cooperatives working on procurement and processing of secondary raw materials, and they produced output worth a total of R2.6 million.

/Improvement of the economic mechanism./ Economic work is being stepped up at many enterprises, the practice of establishing direct long-term economic ties is spreading, and deliveries discipline is being strengthened.

Funds allocated for the social development of labor collectives are being assimilated better than in the first 6 months of last year.

The advantages of the new economic mechanism, full economic accountability [khozyaystvennyy raschet], and of self-financing are still not being fully utilized.

A difficult financial situation developed at a number of enterprises owing to nonfulfillment of delivery commitments and payment of rather sizeable fines. The USSR Ministry of the Automotive Industry was the only one out of all the industrial ministries whose enterprises operate under conditions of complete economic accountability and self-financing to fulfill its profits plan. One of the reasons behind this is the slow reduction of prime costs. Material and technical provision remains a bottleneck.

There have been numerous amendments of confirmed targets and economic normatives: A selective inspection revealed that they affected three-fourths of all enterprises during the first quarter.

II. Development of Material Production [section subhead]

Industry [subhead]

Some 76 percent of enterprises coped with their /contractual commitments/ in full. Taking delivery commitments into account, the output sales plan as a whole was fulfilled 98.1 percent, which is less than in the first 6 months of 1986.

Compared with the actual level in the corresponding period of last year, /labor productivity/ increased 3.6 percent.

/The prime cost/ of output fell by 0.6 percent in comparison with the first 6 months of 1986. /Profits/ increased but at the same time more than one-fourth of industrial associations and enterprises failed to fulfill the plan for financial results.

/The production of industrial output/ increased 4.4 percent during the second quarter, and the total increase in the first 6 months was 3.5 percent, which had been planned for this period.

The following figures (in percentages) describe the fulfillment of contractual delivery commitments and of the profits plan and the growth rates of labor productivity and of output volume for national economic /complexes/ during the first 6 months: [Columns in the following table represent: Column A — Fulfillment of contractual commitments for output deliveries; Column B — Proportion of enterprises failing to fulfill contractual commitments; Column C — Shortfall in output deliveries, millions of rubles; Column D — Fulfillment of profits plan (January-May); Column E — Actual labor productivity growth rate; Column F — Actual output volume growth rate]

	A	B	C	D	E	F
Fuel and energy complex	99.0	34	249	107.2	3.9	3.3
Metallurgical complex	98.6	36	542	101.5	2.6	1.6
Machine building complex	96.2	59	1,845	94.7	2.5	2.9
Chemical industry and timber complex	97.7	47	1,120	97.6	3.7	2.8
Agro-industrial complex	99.4	18	327	98.0	3.9	3.6
Social complex (USSR Ministry of Light Industry)	98.6	27	633	96.5	3.0	0.1
Construction industry complex (USSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry)	98.5	29	98	100.5	3.6	2.3

Data on industry's work during the first 6 months by /union republics/ (including industry under union jurisdiction) is cited below (in percentages): [minus signs before figures indicate negative growth] [Columns in the following table represent: Column A — Fulfillment of contractual commitments for output deliveries; Column B — Proportion of enterprises failing to fulfill contractual commitments; Column C — Savings (plus sign [denoted by letter "p" in table] indicates overexpenditure) in prime costs as percentage of the plan (January-May); Column D — Actual labor productivity growth rate; Column E — Actual output volume growth rate]

	A	B	C	D	E
RSFSR	98.0	27	0.1	3.8	3.2
Ukrainian SSR	98.1	24	p0.2	3.2	2.8
Belorussian SSR	99.0	9	0.3	6.1	6.4
Uzbek SSR	97.6	30	0.9	-1.9	0.8
Kazakh SSR	97.9	23	0.2	3.3	3.5
Georgian SSR	98.4	12	p0.1	1.5	2.1
Azerbaijan SSR	98.2	23	p0.1	3.4	4.3
Lithuanian SSR	99.7	4	0.2	4.4	4.4
Moldavian SSR	98.9	18	0.3	8.5	8.6
Latvian SSR	98.9	17	0.1	3.4	2.7
Kirghiz SSR	98.1	19	p0.3	-0.4	0.3
Tajik SSR	98.0	28	1.2	2.0	4.3
Armenian SSR	97.6	21	0.2	2.5	4.2
Turkmen SSR	98.9	18	1.0	-2.0	-0.4
Estonian SSR	99.7	10	0.5	4.9	3.7

The basic indicators of the production of certain of the most important types of output in January-June by industrial complexes are given below.

Fuel and Energy Complex [subhead]

	Produced in 1st 6 months of 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment	1st 6 months of 1987 as percentage of first 6 months of 1986
Electricity, billion kilowatt-hours	836	100.6	104
Oil (including gas condensate), million tonnes	309	101	102
Gas, billion cubic meters	359	102	106
Coal, million tonnes	383	102	101

The 6-month targets for the extraction and production of the most important types of fuel and energy resources were met. Above-plan extraction amounted to 3.7 million tonnes of oil, including gas condensate, and 6.7 billion cubic meters of gas.

In the coal industry, enterprises under the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry extracted 8.8 million tonnes of coal in excess of plan, including 5.6 million tonnes of coking coal. At the same time, about one-half of coal extracting enterprises failed to cope with contractual commitments and the shortfall in output amounted to R78 million.

Metallurgical Complex [subhead]

	Produced in 1st 6 months of 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment	1st 6 months of 1987 as percentage of 1st 6 months of 1986
Steel, million tonnes	80.7	100.4	100.3
Rolled ferrous metal products (finished), million tonnes	56.4	100.8	101
Steel pipes, million tonnes	10.0	99.8	103
Iron ore, million tonnes	124	102	100.9

The metallurgical complex enterprises fulfilled the plan for the manufacture of main types of output except steel pipes. Above-plan production amounted to 338,000 tonnes of steel and 461,000 tonnes of finished rolled metal products, and 2 million tonnes of iron ore were extracted in excess of plan.

The industry failed to ensure the manufacture of output in the prescribed range and of advanced and highly efficient types of metal products used primarily in machine building. Production targets were not met in terms of cast billets produced by continuous casting machines, rolled low-alloy steel, high-quality cold-drawn steel, and high-impact drilling pipes.

The nonfulfillment of the plan for the production of metal products in the prescribed range had a negative effect on the sales of output taking contract commitments into account. During the first 6 months, the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy showed a shortfall of R482 million in output deliveries against commitments. Almost every other enterprise failed to cope with the deliveries plan.

Machine building complex [subhead]

	Produced in 1st 6 months of 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment	1st 6 months of 1987 as percentage of 1st 6 months of 1986
Turbines, million kilowatts	10.5	99.8	115
Turbine generators, million kilowatts	5.9	94	78
AC electric motors, million kilowatts	26.8	92	97
Metal cutting machine tools, million rubles	1,414	93	99
of which, with digital program control	656	102	107
Forging and pressing machines, million rubles	329	85	93
Industrial robots, thousands	7.4	104	97
Instruments, automation equipment, and spare parts, billion rubles	2.4	98	103

Computer equipment and spare parts, billion rubles	2.5	99.7	107
Petroleum apparatus, million rubles	124	92	97
Chemical equipment and spare parts, million rubles	466	88	93
Industrial equipment and spare parts for the light and food industry, million rubles	888	89	95
Tractors, million horsepower	25.9	94	94
Agricultural machines, billion rubles	2.1	100	104
Grain harvesting combines, thousands	49.6	101	84
Cotton harvesting machines, thousands	3.9	103	86
Machines and equipment for livestock raising and feed production, billion rubles	1.4	91	98
Excavators, thousands	20.1	93	93

Some 59 percent of associations and enterprises in the complex failed to cope with their contract commitments.

During the first 6 months, the machine building complex ministries increased the manufacture of many types of advanced output -- metal processing equipment with digital program control, flexible production modules for various technological purposes, specialized cars and rolling stock for railroad transport, and advanced types of construction and finishing equipment.

At the same time, the majority of ministries failed to ensure the fulfillment of plan targets for the production of basic types of machines and equipment. The 6-month manufacturing plan was not fulfilled by the USSR Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building as regards metal rolling, blast furnace, and steel smelting equipment, diesel locomotives, and freightcars; by the USSR Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry as regards large electrical machines and long-distance electric locomotives; and by the USSR Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry as regards metal cutting machine tool and forging and pressing machines; while the USSR Ministry of Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building failed to make up the lag in the manufacture of chemical and oil and gas processing equipment and equipment for the processing of polymer materials. A significant lag behind plan targets was allowed to build up by the USSR Ministry of Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production in the production of machines and equipment for animal husbandry and feed production, by the USSR Ministry of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances in the production of technological equipment for the light and food industry sectors, and by the USSR Ministry of the Automotive Industry in the production of bearings.

Planned growth rates were not achieved for machine building output volume or for the manufacture of highly efficient advanced products -- standard series electric motors, program control devices for all types of technological equipment, machines and equipment for continuous casting of billets, and others.

As in the past, the last few days of each month accounted for most of the monthly production of output.

Chemical Industry and Timber Complex [subhead]

	Produced in 1st 6 months of 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment	1st 6 months of 1987 as percentage of 1st 6 months of 1986
Mineral fertilizers (in 100-percent nutrient equivalent), million tonnes	18.1	100.8	103
Chemical plant protection agents (in 100-percent active ingredients), thousand tonnes	171	100.6	99.3
Sulfuric acid, million tonnes	14.2	99.2	104
Caustic soda, thousand tonnes	1,638	98	100.5
Chemical fibers and yarns, thousand tonnes	757	100.3	103
Synthetic resins and plastics, million tonnes	2.7	99	102
Tires for motor vehicles, buses, agricultural machines, motor cycles, and motor scooters, millions	33.8	100	102
Commercial lumber (excluding kolkhoz timber procurements), million trimmed cubic meters	171	99.3	99.9
Paper, million tonnes	3.1	99.9	99.1
of which newsprint, billion square meters	17.8	100.7	103

There was an increase in the manufacture of mineral fertilizers and newsprint, and the fulfillment of the plan for their production was ensured.

There was an increase in the production of a number of advanced and highly efficient types of output: polystyrene, large-size veneer sheets, wood-fiber slabs, packaging cardboard, and some others.

At the same time, the planned output volumes were not ensured as regards synthetic resins and plastics including PVC, as well as thermoplastic pipes and pipeline components.

The output plan was not fulfilled as regards raw material chemical products (sulfuric acid, synthetic ammonia, and caustic soda), commercial lumber, and timber.

Enterprises under the USSR Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry failed to cope with their targets for the manufacture of cement chip and wood chip slabs which are effective substitutes for commercial timber products.

Construction Industry Complex [subhead]

	Produced in 1st 6 months of 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment	1st 6 months of 1987 as percentage of 1st 6 months of 1986
Cement, million tonnes	68.0	100.7	102
Precast ferroconcrete, million cubic meters	73	100.3	104
Asbestos cement sheet (shingle), billion standard tiles	4.4	100.5	103
Soft roofing and insulation materials, billion square meters	1.0	99.2	99.7
Asbestos, million tonnes	1.1	101	104
Window glass, million square meters	125	98	98

The plan was fulfilled and, compared with the first 6 months of last year, growth was ensured as regards the production of the main types of construction materials, including advanced and highly efficient output.

There was, however, lagging in the fulfillment of plan targets for the manufacture of soft roofing and insulation materials, window glass, triple-layer ferroconcrete panels with flexible connectors for outside walls in housing construction, and sectional buildings (modules) made of light metal components.

The following figures describe the fulfillment of the plan for the production of /basic nonfood consumer goods/:

	Produced in 1st 6 months of 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment	1st 6 months of 1987 as percentage of 1st 6 months of 1986
/Light industry goods/			
Textiles, all types, billion square meters	6.3	100.2	103
Sewn goods, billion rubles	13.0	101	99.7
Knitted articles, million items	922	100.3	103
Hosiery, million pairs	1,018	101	103
Footwear, million pairs	414	100.3	101
/Goods for cultural, consumer service, and domestic purposes/			
Watches and clocks, millions	34.5	98	99.1
Chinaware and earthenware, million rubles	492	99.7	104
High-grade (glass and crystal) tableware, million rubles	439	99	87
Radio receivers, millions	4.0	94	90
Television sets, millions	4.2	88	90
of which, color sets	2.1	82	99

Tape recorders, millions	2.3	88	99.7
Refrigerators and freezers, millions	3.0	96	98
Washing machines, millions	2.8	96	105
Sewing machines, zigzag type, thousands	470	99.6	101
Furniture, billion rubles	4.3	100.3	104
Automobiles, thousands	660	100.3	100.3
Motor cycles, thousands	475	97	89
Wallpaper, million standard lengths	251	102	115

The total volume of consumer goods output (excluding alcoholic beverages) during the first 6 months was R141 billion in retail price terms — 4 percent higher than in the first 6 months last year.

A whole range of ministries allowed lags to build up as regards the fulfillment of consumer goods production. They include the machine building complex ministries (excluding the USSR Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems and the USSR Ministry of the Automotive Industry), the USSR Ministries of Ferrous Metallurgy, Chemical Industry, and Timber, Pulp, Paper, and Wood Processing Industry.

Ministries producing household appliances failed to reduce the indebtedness they had built up since the beginning of the year. According to the results of the first 6 months, the debt amounts to 564,000 television sets, 326,000 tape recorders, 266,000 radio receivers, 116,000 refrigerators and freezers, and 109,000 washing machines.

The 6-month targets were not met as regards the production of many modern articles, including two- and three-compartment refrigerators, freezers, de luxe vacuum cleaners, "Elektronika-401m" television sets, "Pioner-kross" children's bicycles, and others.

Restructuring is progressing slowly in associations and enterprises under the USSR Ministry of Light Industry. While meeting the targets for the production of basic types of output, their shortfall in deliveries of output to specific consumers amounted to R0.6 billion during the first 6 months. Moreover, one of every four of the ministry's associations and enterprises was in breach of contract commitments.

Many enterprises give insufficient attention to the question of improving the quality of consumer goods.

Agro-Industrial Complex [subhead]

The introduction of the new economic management mechanism in the agro-industrial complex sectors had a positive effect on work.

/The total volume of agricultural output/ increased 4 percent compared with the same period last year, while /labor productivity/ in public sector farming increased 5 percent.

Despite the late spring, agricultural enterprises coped with the spring field work. They ensured the reseeding of winter crops which perished over large areas during the fall and winter period.

/The area sown/ to the 1987 harvest amounted to 210.7 million hectares, including 117.6 million hectares sown to grain and pulses. Larger areas were sown to corn, cotton, sunflower, and annual grasses.

Hay mowing and feed procurement are under way everywhere. But the pace is slower than last year. Smaller quantities of feeds have been procured in the Estonian, Latvian, Belorussian, Georgian, and Lithuanian SSR's, Novgorod, Pskov, Kalinin, Leningrad, Kemerovo, and Volgograd Oblasts, Krasnoyarsk Kray, and the Karelian ASSR.

The harvesting of grain crops has started in many regions.

Purchases of hothouse and greenhouse vegetables and of early open-ground vegetables totaled 1.2 million tonnes during the first 6 months, which was 11 percent less than in the same period of 1986. There was a decline in the amounts of early cabbage purchased on farms in the Ukrainian SSR, Krasnodar and Stavropol Krays, and the Moldavian SSR, and of potatoes purchased on farms in the Kazakh SSR, the Latvian SSR, and the RSFSR. There was a decline in the purchases of stone fruit crops, especially in the Ukrainian SSR, the Moldavian SSR, and the Uzbek SSR.

The 6-month plan for vegetable /deliveries to all-Union stocks/ was fulfilled 93 percent. Vegetable deliveries to the country's industrial centers fell short by 40,300 tonnes. Only one-third of the planned volume of stone fruit crops was delivered during the first 6 months.

In /stockraising,/ compared with the corresponding period last year, meat production increased 7 percent, milk production 2 percent, and egg production 3 percent. Milk production declined on farms in the Ukrainian, Azerbaijan, Moldavian, and Tajik SSR's.

Average milk yield per cow increased 2 percent, and the egg yield of laying hens increased 1 percent; there was a decline in the daily weight gain by cattle and pigs for fattening.

/The livestock and poultry herds/ on kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and interfarm enterprises totaled (million head):

	As of 1 July	
	1986	1987
Cattle	99.2	98.7
of which, cows	29.4	29.0
Hogs	60.2	59.1
Sheep and goats	142.5	142.1
Poultry	788.7	785.8

/Purchases of stockraising products/ on all categories of farms are as follows:

	First 6 months		
	1986	1987	1987 as percentage of 1986
Livestock and poultry (live weight), million tonnes	9.6	10.6	110
Milk, million tonnes	35.2	36.7	104
Eggs, billions	28.1	28.8	103

A considerable fall has been allowed to occur in meat resources due to sales to the sate of livestock of poor weight standards, without the proper fattening process being organized. Compared with the corresponding period of last year, the average weight per head of cattle sold to the state fell on farms in the Moldavian SSR, the Ukrainian SSR, and the Kazakh SSR.

There was a 5-percent fall in the increase rate for calves and a 3-4 percent fall in the increase rate for piglets, lambs, and kids.

There was a sharp increase in loss rates for particular types of livestock in the Ukrainian, Kazakh, Moldavian, Turkmen, and Estonian SSR's.

All union republics fulfilled the plan for deliveries of meat and dairy products and eggs to the all-union stocks.

New forms for the organization of production are spreading in the agro-industrial complex. At present there are 29 agro-industrial combines and associations and 6 agricultural firms in operation, closely collaborating in the production, procurement, processing, and marketing of agricultural products and operating on the principles of full economic accountability [khozyaystvennyy raschet].

The team and family contract system continues to develop on kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

The output of the major foodstuffs and the plan fulfillment by /food industry/ enterprises in the agro-industrial complex were as follows:

	Produced in 1st 6 months of 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment	1st 6 months of 1987 as percentage of 1st 6 months of 1986
Meat (industrial output), million tonnes	5.9	107	106
Sausage products, million tonnes	1.8	104	105
Butter, thousand tonnes	799	106	104
Whole milk products in milk equivalent, million tonnes	16.3	104	104
Edible fish products, including canned fish, million tonnes	2.8	100	99.3
Margarine products, thousand tonnes	821	100.8	106
Vegetable oil, million tonnes	1.6	101	107
Confectionery, million tonnes	2.4	103	103

Canned food, billion standard cans	6.8	108	112
including canned fruit and vegetables	4.1	111	120
of which, fruit juices	1.7	124	150
Mineral water, million decaliters	78	99.5	107
Nonalcoholic beverages, million decaliters	274	87	107

Compared with the corresponding period of last year, the manufacture of liquor, vodka, and wine products fell by 19 percent, the manufacture of beer fell by 3 percent; production of champagne increased 14 percent and production of cognac increased 70 percent; production of grape wine remained at the same level as last year.

During the first 6 months, the agro-industrial complex was supplied with 175,000 tractors, 47,000 grain harvesting combines, 5,300 potato picking combines, 19,000 feed harvesting combines, 33,000 windrow harvesters, 3,900 beet harvesting combines, around 4,000 cotton picking machines, 35,000 haymowing tractor attachments, 14,000 pick-up balers, 3,000 self-propelled mower-crushers, and over 4,000 grain cleaning machines. The quantities of tractors, feed harvesting combines, windrow harvesters, and pick-up balers delivered were smaller than planned.

At the same time, and mainly because of poor technical standards, kolkhozes and sovkhozes refused to accept deliveries of 17,000 grain harvesting combines of different makes, including 8,900 "Yenisey," 2,700 "Kolos," and 2,400 "Niva" combines.

Agriculture was supplied with 14 million tonnes of mineral fertilizers (in 100-percent nutrient equivalent), which was 0.7 million tonnes more than in the corresponding period of last year, and 527,000 tonnes of chemical feed additives, which was 11,000 tonnes more. The delivery plan for these resources was fulfilled.

A total of R25 billion in /capital investments/ was channeled into the development of the agro-industrial complex, including the sectors supplying agriculture with the means of production, and R20 billion of this was channeled into agriculture itself.

Construction work included stockraising premises, mechanized stock units, complexes for the maintenance of 0.7 million head of livestock and 0.9 million head of poultry, silage and haylage facilities with a capacity of 2.6 million cubic meters, storage facilities for 1.6 million tonnes of hay at any one time, and other projects. But many of the planned projects were not commissioned.

Facilities for the storage of 170,000 tonnes of potatoes, vegetables, and fruit at any one time were commissioned. Many oblasts failed to ensure the fulfillment of their targets regarding the commissioning of such projects. They include Kuybyshev, Tambov, Gorkiy, Chelyabinsk, Sverdlovsk, Dnepropetrovsk, and other oblasts.

Some 360,000 hectares of irrigated and drained lands were commissioned. Capital investment toaling R4.2 billion was channeled into land reclamation construction.

Capacities for the production of wholemilk products, canned fruit and vegetables, and bakery, confectionery, and pasta products were commissioned.

Capacities for the manufacture of mineral fertilizers and of machines and equipment for stockraising and feed production were commissioned in the sectors supplying means of production to agriculture.

Capital construction [subhead]

The commissioning of /fixed assets/ financed by state capital investment increased 6 percent and amounted to R48.5 billion — 83 percent of the first-half plan. State /capital investment/ amounting to R77.2 billion or 95 percent of the limit set for this period was assimilated. Compared with the corresponding period of last year, this volume increased 6 percent.

The following figures describe plan fulfillment and the growth rate of commissioning of fixed assets financed by state capital investment by /complexes/:

	Percentage of plan fulfillment in 1st 6 months of 1987	1st 6 months of 1987 as percentage of 1st 6 months of 1986
Fuel and energy complex	92	108
Metallurgical complex	78	105
Machine building complex	87	114
Chemical industry and timber complex	72	100.8
Agro-industrial complex	82	108
Construction industry complex	84	109
USSR Ministry of Light Industry	98	124

The greatest lags in the fulfillment of plans for commissioning fixed assets was allowed to build up by the USSR Ministries of the Chemical Industry, the Medical and Microbiological Industry, the Production of Mineral Fertilizers, Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances, Ferrous Metallurgy, Heavy and Transport Machine Building, Nuclear Power Generation, and the Fish Industry.

A number of important projects were commissioned during the first 6 months. They include the latest turbine at the West Siberian TETS (Second Phase) in Kemerovo Oblast and capacities for the production of: iron powder at Rostov Oblast's Sulnskiy Metallurgical Combine; rolled ferrous metal products at the Dalnevostochnyy Metallurgical Plant in Komsomolsk-na-Amure; chemical fibers and yarns at Vitebsk Oblast's "Polimir" Production Association; synthetic ammonia at Kemerovo's "Azot" Production Association; industrial pipeline fittings, gate valves, and shutoff valves at the Krolevets fittings plant in Sumy Oblast; leather footwear at the Yangiyul footwear factory in Tashkent Oblast; and furniture at the Buryat furniture-making and woodworking combine. Several long-distance gas pipeline sections to a total length of 4,700 km were commissioned.

The plans for commissioning long-distance gas pipelines, oil and oil products pipelines, turbine power station capacities, and capacities for the production of steel pipes, synthetic resins and plastics, caustic soda, lumber, furniture, and knitted underwear were not fulfilled. Altogether 137 important projects for production purposes, which had been scheduled for commissioning and some of which had been carried over from 1986, were not commissioned.

The /contract works/ plan for the first 6 months was fulfilled 99 percent. The volume of work increased 5 percent and labor productivity rose 4.3 percent.

Only 6 of the 20 construction industry complex ministries coped with their work plan, namely the USSR Ministry of Installation and Special Construction Work, the USSR Ministry of Transport Construction, the Uzbek SSR, Kazakh SSR, and Latvian SSR ministries of construction, and the Estonian SSR Gosstroy. The Ukrainian SSR, Georgian SSR, and Azerbaijan SSR ministries of construction allowed the volume of work to decline compared with the corresponding period of last year.

Organizations under the construction industry complex ministries failed to meet plan targets at projects scheduled for commissioning this year.

More than one-fourth of construction organizations failed to cope with their financial results plans.

There was no positive change in capital construction toward substantial enhancement of the efficiency of capital investment and construction industry production. The time taken to construct projects runs in excess of normatives, and the number of projects under construction simultaneously remains significant.

Transport and Communications [subhead]

The volume of freight /shipments/ (consignments) carried by all types of general purpose transport reached 6.3 billion tonnes and was somewhat higher than in the first 6 months of last year; /passenger turnover/ exceeded 500 billion passenger-kilometers and increased 2.4 percent.

Freight shipments and passenger turnover for individual types of general purpose transport were as follows:

	Performed in 1st 6 months of 1987	Percentage plan fulfillment	1st 6 months of 1987 as percentage of 1st 6 months of 1986
/Shipments/ (consignments) of freight, million tonnes			
Railroad transport	1,982	98	98
Maritime transport	121	102	99.4
River transport	254	102	99
Motor transport	3,317	100.5	102
Pipeline transportation			
petroleum and petroleum products	329	101	103
gas (USSR Ministry of Gas Industry)	270	102	106
/Passenger turnover/, billion passenger-kilometers			
Railroad transport	179	102	101
Air transport	89	102	104

/Railroad transportation/ fulfilled the 6-month plan for consignments of coal, coke, petroleum and petroleum products, ore, cement, mineral fertilizers, and other freight.

The lag allowed to build up earlier in the year has not been made up. The total freight dispatch plan was underfulfilled by 39 million tonnes, including metal structures, timber freight, granulated clinker, fire-resistant materials, industrial raw materials and extrusions, flux, and ferrous metals. Some 22 railroads are lagging in terms of this indicator, especially the Volga, West Siberian, Southeastern, Donetsk, and Kuybyshev Railroads. Labor productivity increased 6.2 percent. Rolling stock utilization deteriorated. Disruptions in the scheduled running of freight and passenger trains have not been eliminated. In June alone, 13.8 percent of passenger trains (excluding suburban services) arrived late at their destinations, with the average delay per train being 1.3 hours.

/Maritime transportation/ fulfilled the plan for freight carrying operations abroad 102 percent. Lags were allowed to build up in coastal shipping freight consignments, and the Danube, Azov, Kamchatka, and Caspian Shipping Companies failed to cope with their targets.

/River transportation/ performance for passenger carrying operations, passenger turnover, and the carrying of individual types of freight was lower than planned.

/Air transportation/ carried 53 million passengers. The passenger turnover plan was fulfilled by all civil aviation administrations and production associations, except the North Caucasus Administration. Airborne chemical operations were performed on 57 million hectares of agricultural and forest land.

In /automotive transportation,/ freight carrying targets were not met by the Uzbek, Moldavian, Turkmen, and Ukrainian SSR ministries of motor transport and the Estonian SSR Ministry of Motor Transport and Highways.

Income earned from passenger carrying operations by general purpose buses and taxis amounted to R3.9 billion, or 102 percent of the plan.

The intensity of truck utilization fell: There was a decline in productivity per tonne of freight-carrying capacity and in average daily runs, while the proportion of empty runs increased.

/Communications/ enterprises fulfilled the plan for revenues from their main operations; compared with the corresponding period of last year, revenues increased 8 percent.

III. Social Development and the Raising of the People's Living Standards [section subhead]

During the first 6 months of 1987 the national economy employed 118 million /workers and employees/, or 0.5 percent more than during the first 6 months of last year.

Almost the entire increase in the workforce (500,000 people) was channeled into the sphere of services to the population.

The number of /kolkhoz members/ in public sector farming reached 12 million.

/Remuneration of labor and social consumption funds./ The average money wage of workers and employees was R200.5 compared with R195 during the corresponding period of last year. The remuneration of kolkhoz members' labor in public sector kolkhoz farming was R147 compared with R142 during the first 6 months of 1986.

The introduction of long service award payments continued in individual sectors of the national economy. Supplementary payments were established for workers at enterprises, institutions, and organizations situated in the southern regions of the Far East, Chita Oblast, and the Buryat and Tuva ASSR's.

The national economy's production sectors are introducing new conditions of labor remuneration financed from funds earned by the labor collectives. At the same time, opportunities to increase wages through this source are being implemented only slowly. Wage rates and salary scales have increased for only 11 percent of the total number of workers due to switch to new conditions of labor remuneration in 1987. This measure is being implemented in an unsatisfactory fashion by the USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry, the USSR Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy, the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification, and several other ministries.

The population received from social consumption funds /payments and benefits/ totaling more than R77 billion, or 5.3 percent more than during the first 6 months of last year. Taking these payments and benefits into account, the wages of workers and employees amounted to R279 a month.

/Supply of goods and service to the population./ Retail commodity turnover in state and cooperative trade reached R165.2 billion, and increased 3.2 percent in comparable prices in comparison with the corresponding period of 1986. The commodity turnover plan was not fulfilled either in total volume or in terms of sales excluding alcoholic beverages, either as a whole or by any of the union republics, with the exception of the Estonian SSR.

Positive changes continued to take place in the structure of retail commodity turnover -- sales of foodstuffs and nonfood commodities increased, while sales of alcoholic beverages declined.

The sale of individual commodities by state and cooperative trade (in comparable prices) is as follows:

	1st 6 months of 1987 as a percentage of 1st 6 months of 1986
Grain products	99
Meat and meat products	106
Fish and fish products	99
Butter	109
Vegetable oil	103
Margarine products	103
Whole milk products	104
Cheese	103
Eggs	102
Sugar	114
Confectionery	101
Tea	105
Potatoes	103
Vegetables	103
Fruit and citrus fruit	110
Nonalcoholic beverages	109
Mineral water	102
Fruit and vegetable juices	99
Alcoholic beverages	78
Tobacco products	100
Clothing, underwear, and textiles	99
Knitwear	104
Hosiery	110
Footwear	95
Chinaware, earthenware, and glassware	113
Soap and detergents	103
Furniture	100
Refrigerators and freezers including those with a capacity of 200 cubic decimeters or more	98 105
Washing machines	104
Vacuum cleaners	102
Clocks and watches	101
Cameras	107

Radio receivers	115
Television sets	91
of which, color sets	97
Tape recorders	104
Bicycles and mopeds	101
Motor cycles and scooters	106
Cars	102
Timber materials	114
Slates	113
Sheet steel for roofing and other metal products	100

Trade in potatoes, fruit, and vegetables improved somewhat. Even so, the variety is still limited.

The situation remains difficult as regards supplies of meat products and butter for the population. Supplies in many cities are available directly at enterprises, organizations, and institutions through the system of bulk ordering or for sale at canteens. Insufficient quantities of these products are available through the retail trade network.

Inadequate attention is given at local level to seeking out and activating additional resources for meat and dairy production through production on subsidiary farms of enterprises and organizations or other sources.

As a result of shortages of potatoes, fruit and vegetables, meat, and butter in the trade network, high prices were established and are being maintained in the kolkhoz markets at levels 2.5 to 4 times higher than state retail prices.

Serious shortcomings exist in satisfying demand for industrial products. There is an acute shortage of footwear. Young people's demands were not fully satisfied as regards particularly fashionable types of clothing and knitwear, as well as better quality goods for middle-aged and elderly people.

There is no proper collaboration between wholesale organizations and retail trade; no attention is given to whether the range of commodities delivered to the trade network corresponds with the season.

The supply of construction materials, especially locally produced, for the population is unsatisfactory. During the first 6 months, the annual targets for sale of locally produced construction materials were met 20 percent, including 11 percent in the RSFSR and 9 percent in the Kazakh SSR.

Paid services supplied to the population amounted to R25.3 billion, which is 45 percent of the annual plan. The volume of services increased 10.5 percent. Only the Belorussian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Kirghiz, and Estonian SSR's coped with the 6-month targets. Enterprises under the USSR Ministries of Installation and Special Construction Work, Chemical and Petroleum Machine Building, and a number of other ministries are failing to show the proper initiative as regards the provision of services.

The volume of consumer service sales increased 9.9 percent during the first 6 months. The plan was fulfilled in terms of only 13 out of the 26 basic plan categories of such services. The result of this was that services worth R49 million were not supplied to the population.

More than 3,000 cooperatives had been set up as of 1 July 1987 for the production of consumer goods, in public catering, and for the supply of various services to the population.

The volume of /housing and sociocultural construction/ increased. A total housing area of 35.1 million square meters, or 17 percent more than in the first 6 months of 1986, was financed by state capital investment and commissioned.

The plan for commissioning of housing was fulfilled during the first 6 months. At the same time, the fulfillment of plan targets was not ensured in the Uzbek, Azerbaijan, Lithuanian, Moldavian, Armenian, Turkmen or Estonian SSR's and the USSR Ministries of the Chemical Industry, the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry, Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production, the Coal Industry, Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry, Light Industry, Power and Electrification, the Electrical Equipment Industry, the Construction Materials Industry, and several other ministries and departments.

The following facilities were commissioned: general educational schools for 635,000 pupils, preschool institutions with 147,000 places, hospitals with 12,000 beds, out-patient and polyclinical institutions with a capacity of 46,000 visits per shift, and clubs and culture centers providing 39,000 places. But the 6-month program for their commissioning was not met.

The following USSR Ministries failed to ensure the commissioning of projects: Construction, Road, and Municipal Machine Building as regards preschool institutions; Nonferrous Metallurgy and the Production of Mineral Fertilizers as regards hospitals; Nonferrous Metallurgy as regards polyclinics; Nuclear Power Generation, the Coal Industry, and Nonferrous Metallurgy as regards clubs and culture centers. The greatest lags with respect to construction plan targets built up in the RSFSR and the Uzbek, Moldavian, Tajik, Armenian, and Turkmen SSR's as regards schools; in the RSFSR and the Uzbek, Lithuanian, Moldavian, and Armenian SSR's as regards preschool institutions; in the Uzbek, Armenian, and Turkmen SSR's as regards health services institutions; and in the Ukrainian, Kazakh, Georgian, Moldavian, Lithuanian, and Turkmen SSR's as regards clubs and culture centers.

The fulfillment of the 6-month plan for commissioning vocational and technical schools was extremely unsatisfactory -- only 43 percent. Not a single school was commissioned by the USSR Ministries of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building, Machine Building for Animal Husbandry and Feed Production, Power and Electrification, Nuclear Power Generation, or Nonferrous Metallurgy or on the territory of the Armenian or Estonian SSR's.

The practice continued of commissioning projects for social and cultural purposes before they are fully fitted and equipped.

There was an increase in the number of hospitals and of out-patient and polyclinic institutions. At the same time, substantial improvement is needed in the material and technical base of health services, the quality of medical services, and supplies of medicaments to the population.

There was an expansion of the network of sanatoriums, rest institutions, and tourist hotels and bases, but the population's demand for such facilities is not fully satisfied.

The improvement in the demographical situation in the country became more stable.

The /population/ of the Soviet Union was 283.1 million as of 1 July 1987.

Approximately 4 million young men and women completed their secondary education.

Some 2 million specialists were trained for various sectors of the national economy, including 0.8 million with higher education and 1.2 million with secondary specialized education.

/Environmental protection./ Important decisions were taken on the comprehensive protection of Lake Baykal's unique natural complex, and of Lake Ladoga.

The implementation of measures to reduce the discharge of noxious substances into the atmosphere, to make rational use of water resources, and to protect the fauna continued.

At the same time, targets were not met as regards the construction and commissioning of the most important environmental protection projects, including projects at some enterprises which have a most negative effect on the environment.

Noxious substances are being vented into the atmosphere by a number of enterprises under the USSR Ministries of Nonferrous Metallurgy, Ferrous Metallurgy, the Production of Mineral Fertilizers, the Chemical Industry, and the Gas Industry, while accidental discharges of polluted effluents into water reservoirs occurred at enterprises under the USSR Ministries of Ferrous Metallurgy, the Production of Mineral Fertilizers, Power and Electrification, and Construction of Petroleum and Gas Industry Enterprises.

As a result of violations of environmental protection legislation, operations were suspended at certain industrial installations, especially under the jurisdiction of the USSR Ministries of the Medical and Microbiological Industry, the Chemical Industry, the Production of Mineral Fertilizers, Power and Electrification, the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry, and Light Industry.

The Soviet Union's working people welcomed with ardent approval the CPSU Central Committee June (1987) Plenum decisions on the fundamental restructuring of economic management. Preparations are under way for the introduction of the USSR Law on the State Enterprise (Association), and for the transformation of the organizational structures and work of management organs. Socialist competition is spreading among labor collectives to fulfill the 1987 plan successfully and give a fitting welcome to the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

REVIEW POINTS OUT 'HITCHES' IN GRAIN TRANSPORT

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["Agricultural Review" by Yu. Nikolayev: "Grain Transportation"]

[Excerpts] Just recently the grain harvesting combines were still only "roving" the yellowish fields of Central Asian republics and Transcaucasia. Now they have entered the steppes of the Kuban, Don, and Stavropol and the southern oblasts of the Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

The harvest is late and the USSR Central Statistical Administration reports: While last year grain had been cut on more than 16 million hectares by mid-July, this year only 3.5 million hectares had been cut and 2.5 million hectares threshed by 13 July. The difference is considerable. To harvest at the right time and avoid harvest losses, what is needed from every collective is special efficiency, the highest standard of organization, and skillful use of equipment. [passage omitted]

V. Konoplin, chief of a USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee transport subdivision, comments:

More than 1.5 billion tonnes of agricultural produce are to be transported by the country's truck drivers in the course of this year's harvest. Around 1.5 million trucks will be used for this purpose, including more than 1 million trucks owned by the agro-industrial committee. Many truck driver teams are successfully employing progressive transportation methods. In Krasnodar, Stavropol, and Krasnoyarsk Krays and Kursk and Saratov Oblasts, for instance, transport control centers are operating successfully. They organize grain transport with the help of timetables drawn up by a computer. Such centers are set up every year in the Ukraine, Belorussia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Latvia. Kazakh truck drivers have introduced many innovations in transporting grain. Detachments of large-capacity trucks and tractor trailers are using the combitrailer system [kombitreylernaya sistema) and portion method [portsionnyy metod] of grain deliveries to threshing floors. And the result? Combine idle time while waiting for transport facilities is reduced, the labor productivity of machine operators and truck drivers is enhanced, and many trucks are released for the transportation of other goods. Farms in Alam-Ata Oblast, for instance, are deploying machinery and transport facilities skillfully this year and have worked out the best possible options for utilizing the combitrailer and portion methods of grain transportation. This has helped to avoid disruption in the transportation of grain between the fields and threshing floors.

If only this was the case everywhere, on every kolkhoz and sovkhoz. However, there are still many hitches in grain transport. It would seem that we prepare for the harvest well in advance. But as soon as the harvest begins, there are problems again. "Sieve-like" trucks that leave a golden trail of wheat along the road are something that people's controllers find every year. Year after year they can be found on the rural routes. What is the reason? Negligence on the part of drivers, indifference on the part of specialists, or unwillingness on the part of farm leaders to reliably exclude bad workmanship and grain losses? A bit of all three.

Usually in the summer every truck is in great demand. It is needed in the fields, in the meadows, on the vegetable plots, at the livestock units, and at the construction sites. If it breaks down or is out of action, everything grinds to a halt. Quite a few trucks are out of operation in rural areas at the moment. [paragraph continues]

According to the USSR Central Statistical Administration, in each of Gorkiy, Voronezh, Saratov, and Kalinin Oblasts more than 2,500 truck were out of action at the beginning of July. They had not been repaired. A considerable number of trucks in Sumy, Chernigov, and Kharkov Oblasts have suffered the same fate. Repairs of tractor trailers have not been completed in Ryazan, Kirov, and Perm Oblasts. And yet these machines are absolutely essential for both harvest work and haymaking.

There is another fact impending harvest work and favoring grain losses. Truck drivers from Dzhambul have written a letter about it. "Motor transport labor productivity growth is seriously impeded," they write, "by obsolete weighing equipment and outdated loading and unloading equipment designed for small-capacity trucks and elevators. Furthermore, rayon agro-industrial association staff have still not learned how to distribute transport facilities among farms. Incidentally, party raykoms are frequently in charge of organizing transport and switch trucks from one farm to another without justification. You also ought to take a look at what kind of trucks we send to northern parts of the Republic to help with the harvest. Well equipped, sealed trucks. But they arrive there a week or two before the harvest. And the drivers are made to transport road metal, stones, and other construction materials. The seal is destroyed and the truck becomes unsuitable for grain transportation. It is high time to establish order in this matter."

Currently, some motor transport enterprises are switching to the new conditions of management. They will operate on the basis of self-capitalization and self-financing. This means that it is necessary right now, during the harvest, to improve economically accountable relations with clients, make more extensive use of team forms of labor organization and the collective contract, and introduce progressive methods of freight transportation.

The length of the harvest, the quality of harvest work, and the delivery of the crop to storage facilities depend to a considerable extent on the help of our partners. Drivers are well aware of the difficulties caused by the absence of a readily available pool of spare parts and units. It is a pity that the Ministry of the Automotive Industry is in no hurry to supply them. We have managed to draw up an agreement with the Kamaz motor vehicle center about creating such a readily available pool in major regions of the country where a large number of big-capacity trucks will be concentrated during the harvest. Yet it is impossible to reach such an agreement with the "Avtogaz" and the "Avtozil" associations.

Petrochemical industry workers have let down transport workers quite seriously. The tire situation is simply lamentable. They are constantly in short supply and there are no signs of improvement. Does the Ministry of Petroleum Refining and the Petrochemical Industry not know that the Yerevan and Baku plants are producing low quality tires? Their life is 40,000 km against a norm of 90,000 km. Tires for Kamaz trucks (dimensions 260-508R) are causing special concern. During the first 6 months alone, the Voronezh plant failed to deliver 33,000 tires to the State Agro-Industrial Committee. But mass harvesting has already begun and the ripe grain will not wait.

'SOYUZ TM-3' LAUNCHED WITH SOVIET-SYRIAN CREW

LD220446 Moscow TASS in English 0432 GMT 22 Jul 87

["TASS Announcement: Soviet-Syrian Crew in Orbit" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 22 TASS -- The "Soyuz TM-3" spacecraft was launched in the Soviet Union today at 5 hours 59 minutes Moscow time.

The spacecraft is manned by an international crew consisting of Commander Aleksandr Viktorenko, flight engineer, hero of the Soviet Union, pilot cosmonaut of the USSR Aleksandr Aleksandrov and cosmonaut researcher, citizen of the Syrian Arab Republic Mohammed Faris.

The flight programme envisages docking of the "Soyuz TM-3" craft with the manned complex "Mir", and scientific-technical research and experiments by the Soviet-Syrian crew together with cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin, who have been in near earth orbit since February 6, 1987.

The flight of the Soviet-Syrian crew is carried out in accordance with the agreement between the governments of the Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Cosmonauts Viktorenko, Aleksandrov and Faris feel well.

The docking of the "Soyuz TM-3" craft with the orbital complex "Mir" is scheduled to take place on July 24.

Syrians Visit Baykonur

LD211826 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A government delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic, led by Talas, deputy prime minister and minister of defense, arrived at the Baykonur launch site today. The delegation is accompanied by Academician Kotelnikov, chairman of the Intercosmos Council and vice president of the USSR Academy of Sciences; pilot-cosmonaut of the USSR Titov; and other officials. The delegation from the friendly country met with Soviet and Syrian crewmen, planted a tree in the Avenue of Guests of Honor, visited the Baykonur launch complex, and also visited the houses of [former cosmonauts] Korolev and Gagarin.

TASS UPDATES PROGRESS OF 'MIR' SPACE COMPLEX

LD211722 Moscow TASS in English 1214 GMT 21 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 21 TASS -- A TASS correspondent reporting from the mission control centre:

The long spaceflight by Soviet cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin went into its 166th day, which started at 9:00 Moscow time and will last till midnight.

Today the crew of the manned "Mir" complex is preparing and checking scientific instruments for joint research work under the programme of the joint Soviet-Syrian flight. The "Soyuz TM-3" space craft with two Soviet cosmonauts and one cosmonaut from the Syrian Arab Republic will be launched on July 22, 1987.

Biological research with the use of such devices as "Rost", "Fiton" and "Svetoblock", continues on board the "Mir" complex. It is aimed at obtaining information about the growth of various plants in conditions of microgravity. The cosmonauts will also conduct visual observations and film different regions of Soviet territory during the day.

According to telemetric information and reports by cosmonauts, work aboard the complex proceeds in accordance with the flight schedule.

WORK IN PROGRESS ON SPACE SHUTTLE CONFIRMED

LD220925 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 11 Jul 87

[From the "Moscow Mailbag to North America"]

[Text] The first question comes from (Ed Allen) of Baltimore, Maryland: Are Soviet engineers designing a space shuttle?

Yes, they are, Ed. We're working on a space shuttle, but we are not going to give up our reliable carrier rockets, which have proved their worth and which will be used to transport freight into space. Now our space shuttle is being designed on somewhat different lines from yours. Did you know that far from all the elements which make up the shuttles in the States, such shuttles as the Atlantis, Challenger and Columbia, far from all the elements are reusuable? We're working on the -- if I may put it that way -- we're working on the reusability of the units and elements of the shuttle. And I want to stress that our shuttle will be used for peaceful purposes.

Now, it's been said in the West that a satellite has made a photograph of the Baykonur cosmodrome from which we launch our spaceships, and on the photograph there's a landing strip for space shuttles, and that landing strip is clearly seen. Well, there are several such strips capable of landing, well, anything you want.

MOSOW ON SATELLITE COOPERATION, U.S. OPPOSITION

LD220936 Moscow World Service in English 1300 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the past few years mutually beneficial cooperation has attracted an increasing number of countries to the space club. The most tangible practical use is given by communications satellites, navigation, prospecting and other orbital systems. However, it's quite expensive to take such complex vehicles into orbit. So far only the United States, the European Space Agency and the Soviet Union have launched such satellites on a commercial basis. What are the peculiarites of the Soviet approach to the space business?

The Soviet Union doesn't seek supporters and offers its services at advantageous terms, apprximately at a 20-percent lower cost than other countries.

This year it will launch the first Indian prospecting satellite on a commercial basis. Finland has shown interest in forming a direct system of television broadcasting. The projects of making communications satellites for Iran and several Latin American countries are at different stages of discussion. The Soviet Union offers the powerful rocket Proton for launching big objects into space. The carrier rocket has successfully passed all tests. It takes up to 20 tonnes of cargo to low terrestrial orbits not exceeding 200 km. A four-stage model of Proton can carry approxiamtely 5.7 tonnes of useful cargo to the moon and to Venus and Mars 5.3 and 4.5 tonnes correspondingly. Proton can place objects weighing up to 2 tonnes in stationary orbit, where a satellite is fixed above a certain place on the planet.

The Soviet Union has received many preliminary requests for space technology on a commercial basis. However, here are a number of artificial obstacles to such operations. Using its influence on Western companies, the United States does its utmost to block their cooperation with the Soviet Union and prevent the launching of foreign satellites by the Soviet Proton rocket. The State Department has also said a categorical no to American aerospace companies, including Hughes and Ford Aerospace, that showed interest in Soviet rocket carriers that could place American commercial communications satellites in orbit. Maybe the reliability of the Proton is doubtful? Well, no. According to statistics Proton is more reliable than American rockets. Besides, the Soviet side guarantees complete safety of foreign satellites from the viewpoint of technical secrets and control by the companies that manufcture them.

One gets the impression that the United States is simply afraid of competition on the part of the Soviet Union. In a bid to control the space market at any cost it undermines international cooperation. But this can hardly be called the best way of running things in commercial space or any other sphere.

YAKUTIYA NUCLEAR EXPLOSION FOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

LD220921 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0830 GMT 22 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jul (TASS) -- A nuclear explosion with a yield of 20 kilotons which was carried out in Yakutiya on 7 July was to step up geological survey work on oil and gas in the Siberian plateau, Aleksandr Zoteyev, general director of the Association for Geological Surveying in the area, said in an interview to the weekly MOSKOVSKIY NOVOSTI.

The nuclear explosion was carried out at a great depth, causing a small earthquake at the epicenter. It was hardly felt at all in the poplulated areas nearest to it, nor in Mirnyy, the center of the diamond extracting industry, which is situated some 150 km away.

Zoteyev explained that more than twenty encouraging deposits have been found now in eastern Siberia, which includes Yakutiya. A large raw material base for the oil and gas industry of the USSR is being established here.

Recently geologists have discovered very enticing carbonate deposits running along almost the whole of the Siberian plateau. They are laid down in great 400-700 meter oil and gas bearing hard rocks, containing hundreds of millions of tonnes of hydrocarbons, specialists believe. But the low temperatures of the strata and the complex structure of the deposits makes their extraction by conventional methods difficult.

That is why it was decided to use an atomic explosion to act on a deposit which has been more greatly studied and previously determined to contain gas, in order to create artificial cracks on a wide area, thereby increasing by several times the flow of gas. The final data on the results of the experiment will be known in about 6 months time.

'ELEKTRO-87' EXHIBITION OPENS IN MOSCOW 15 JULY

LD151816 Moscow TASS in English 1700 GMT 15 Jul 87

[Text] Moscow July 15 TASS -- The Elektro-87 international exhibition opened here today. Over 400 leading firms of many countries and some 200 Soviet enterprises and organizations of a number of ministries and departments accepted the invitation to take part in the exhibition issued by the organizers of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Exhibitions of this type are held once in five years. It is the fourth such exhibition held in Moscow.